WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 7, NO. 7 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | NOVEMBER 1996

"Everyone else is represented in Washington by a rich and powerful lobby, it seems. But there is no lobby for the people." Shirley Chisolm

Homelessness, Poverty, Welfare Reform

The Makings Of A Revolution

Pat Tassoni

I interviewed two homeless men last month who camp with three others in the woods. Two of them work, two are vets, one is a senior and three are disabled. The two with whom I spoke, let's call them Bill and Bob in honor of our primary presidential candidates, were, in the short term, dreading the coming winter and in the long term, the crumbling of society. During winter, people die on the streets as seven did last year in Olympia; with the destruction of the social safety net, more people are going to be on the streets.

Although they painted a dismal picture of life, they were grateful for what does exist: Bread & Roses; and they added Mission of Hope kept them comfortable and gave them a little hope. They were very expressive and were greatly concerned not only about their survival, but with the growing of population of those who experience poverty.

Housing and Homelessness

Migration of economically secure people to Washington has resulted in the market development of high-price housing and rental units. The housing market has grown especially tight over the past ten years, forcing out the low-income and fixed-income communities. Thousands upon thousands of units of affordable housing have been removed in Seattle since 1980. In May 1986, the Olympia City Council "stated its commitment 'to see to it that low-income housing is not simply squeezed out of the downtown,'" in response to a study that revealed 170 units of primarily low-income housing were demolished or converted since 1980. Yet little positive action has been taken to fulfill this commitment. In 1995, under pressure from the downtown business association, the soon to be completed Fleetwood Building (the first successful attempt to provide real affordable housing in downtown Olympia) had to fight for city attention to provide 43 units of low-income housing.

They are dreading the coming winter. During winter, people die on the streets as seven did last year in Olympia...and more people will be on the streets this year.

According to the Washington HUD Consolidated Plan's conservative estimate, there are 259,390 renter households and 166,527 homeowners in need of housing assistance across the state. HUD states that over 4,000 households in Thurston County are in need of housing assistance. 32,247 make 50% of the median income, 15,000 make below 30%. With the exception of the Fleetwood, all "low-income" housing recently developed was built for those with an annual income of $18,586.

Public housing is the only option for people on fixed-incomes and low-incomes. The need for such housing is already desperate. Two years ago there were 1,249 households on the waiting list for Section 8 housing with the Thurston County Housing Authority. The number of vouchers available was about 700. The basic need for housing will rise nationally as women and children are forced off welfare and as well as a third of a million children with disabilities.

Locally, about 400 adults will have their SSI discontinued after this year because of new regulations. Most, if not all, spend the paltry amount they receive for roofs over their heads. Without any income, these people with various disabilities (will) are going to be thrown out in(to) the streets. Some will not be able to fend for themselves, while the rest are unable to function adequately in order to hold a job. What are their options going to be? Obviously, in the short term (incidentally in the middle of winter) homelessness is going to increase as these people are deserted by the social system.

Despite the misleading hopeful headline ($714 Million Allotted To Refurbish Public Housing) in the October 8th, *Olympian*, the money will be used to demolish nearly 17,000 units of housing throughout the nation. But *let's look at the bright side:* 4,000 new public housing units will be built with what remains of the money! In the past three years, HUD has demolished 23,000 housing units and plans to demolish 100,000 by the end of the century.

An exact number of homeless in Olympia is hard to measure for reasons of definitions, information gathering, reporting, etc. According to the local HUD office, 1993 and 1994 home-

(Continued page 3)

1996 General Election Endorsements

Civil rights : Freedom Vote, Privacy Fund, National Organization for Women ; Environment: Thurston Environmental Action Team; Labor: Thurston/Lewis Labor Council

	FV	NOW	TEAL	PF	Labor
National Congress					
District 3	Brian Baird	Brian Baird	Brian Baird		Brian Baird
District 9	Adam Smith	Adam Smith			Adam Smith
State Offices					
Governor				Gary Locke	Gary Locke
Attorney General		Chris Gregoire		Chris Gregoire	C. Gregoire
Auditor		Brian Sonntag		Brian Sonntag	Brian Sonntag
Treasurer				Mike Murphy	Mike Murphy
Insurance Commissioner		Deborah Senn		Deborah Senn	OPPOSE Senn
Commissioner of Public Lands		Jen Belcher		Jen Belcher	Jen Belcher
Secretary of State		Pyllis Kenney		Pyllis Kenney Ralph Munro	Ralph Munro
Super of Public Instruction		Terry Bergson		Terry Bergson	Terry Bergson
State Legislature					
20th District					
House, Position 1	Lois Lopez		Lois Lopez		Lois Lopez
House, Position 2	Tina Edwards		Tina Edwards		Tina Edwards
Senate	NONE				Cody Arledge
22nd District					
House, Position 1	Sandra Romero	Sandra Romero	Sandra Romero		Sandra Romero
House, Position 2	Cathy Wolfe	Cathy Wolfe	Cathy Wolfe		Cathy Wolfe
Senate	Karen Fraser	Karen Fraser	Karen Fraser		Karen Fraser
35th District					
House, Position 1	NONE*				Lena Swanson
House, Position 2	NONE				
Thurston County					
District 1	Steve Langer		Steve Langer		Steve Langer
District 2	NONE				

*** Strongly oppose incumbent Representative Peggy Johnson**

LETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

"the queen will fall" Baird for Congress

To the Editor:

Linda Smith thinks like Ellen Craswell, votes like Newt Gingrich, and attacks like Bob Dole. That's why "the queen will fall" this election year, in the words of noted political commentator Cathy Allen.

Linda Smith simply doesn't fit well with voters in the Third Congressional District. She's too conservative, abrasive, and negative -- often appearing to be anti-everything.

The "Smith Myth" tells us of a fighter for working people and middle-class families. But the record shows she's on the side of big business, and she promotes issues that don't affect the everyday lives of people in our district.

The Smith Myth tells us of a grandmotherly heroine who slays opponents near and far. But the record shows she's not well-regarded as a member of Congress, and she won her seat by defeating a beleaguered incumbent in an off-year, low-turnour elections. Did you know Linda Smith was elected in 1992 with fewer votes than losing Republicans generally garner in our primarily Democratic congressional district? Most people simply stayed home in 1992, and that's not likely to happen in this presidential and gubernatorial election year.

It's time for Linda Smith to make a career change. We need someone in Washington, DC who won't forget the issues that matter most to us, the people who sent him there. We need Brian Baird for Congress.

Curt Pavola

Man Doesn't Understand Choice

Dear WIP,

That people who oppose abortion, as I do, could support the death penalty, celebrate the obliteration of Iraq, or threaten clinic workers strikes me as strange at best. Many such abortion opponents would make good next door neighbors and could thoughtfully defend their opinions. Still, it seems as if they take their reverence for life only so far, until the cost is too great.

That progressive people, dedicated to resisting oppression and empowering the oppressed, rarely question abortion publicly also makes me wonder. True, women face more oppression than I'll ever know, and bringing a child to term and beyond can be extremely difficult. True, most women regretfully, perhaps desperately. Still, I would talk about feeling torn about abortion. Pro-choice does mean supporting the right to do violence to human beings who have not given their consent and have given no personal offense.

Admitting that I have a great deal to learn, hoping to encourage thought, I offer these questions.

The powerful tend to dehumanize their real or perceived enemies before doing violence to them. Do we not, in public discussion, dehumanize the fetuses we abort?

Some of us oppose the choice by a large majority of the population to execute persons convicted of especially violent crimes. How does one reasonably resist this citizen's choice while at the same time supporting anyone's choice to "execute" a fetus? (If fetuses aren't alive and human, what are they?)

Does being oppressed justify oppressing another? If aborting a fetus doesn't oppress him or her, what does it do?

Why is abusing an unwanted child an evil and doing worse to an unwanted fetus a right?

If speaking out for fetuses living inside women's bodies is nobody's business, why is it anybody's business to speak out for anyone living inside another's country or sitting on the sidewalk in front of another's downtown business?

Obviously, fetuses differ from other human beings, but aren't there plenty of similarities? Of course, women's bodies aren't countries or businesses, but aren't all three quite private in a sense and yet quite connected with larger communities?

If it's praiseworthy to stand with women and men of Chiapas and Cuba, why not also with women and men not yet born?

Dave Bellefeuille-Rice

Friday Nights Liberation Cafe

116 4th Ave - downtown Oly
Top Floor of Bulldog News

Office Hours 3pm-7pm
Wed., Thurs., Sat.

Come to the regular meetings on Wednesdays at 7pm.

November 1 (7pm)
NISQUA presentation with Francisco Cali
Day of the Dead Potluck

November 8 (7pm)
Olympia Movement For Justice And Peace Presentation

November 15 (7pm)
Peace Action Coalition
Anarchist Discussion on Chicago Democratic Convention with Long-Hair David and friends

November 22 (7pm)
Oly AIDS Prevention Projects
presentation/discussion/update
free condoms w/demonstrations

Need info? Got ideas?
call 352-7336 or Pete 956-1771

Queers Fighting Ignorance with Radical Empowerment

A new group called Q-FIRE (Queers Fighting Ignorance with Radical Empowerment) is forming in Olympia. The name, which you must admit is one of the best acronyms around, pretty much says it all. Q-FIRE was founded by two local youths, Colleen Donovan and Shane Davis. The group is going to be hierarchy-free, so what it does is to be determined by the participants, but Colleen and Shane do have some personal visions. They would like queer issues to be a lot more prolific in this community. They see the group planning cultural and social events, and political actions. Some possibilities mentioned were putting together panels to visit schools to raise awareness of queer issues among students and administrators, and an AIDS march. Q-FIRE is open to queers and their allies of any age. Meetings are Sunday evenings, 6:30-8:30 at the Liberation Cafe (upstairs from Bulldog News). Come down and get involved! If you have questions, call Colleen at 753-6380.

WIP Schedule

Submission deadline:
Friday, Nov. 22
6pm at Liberation Cafe

Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 7 pm
Olympia Timberland Library
Downtown Olympia

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

Mission Statement: "Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Correspondence/articles are always welcome. Articles on disk (text preferred). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

(Makings, continued)

less surveys showed 194 persons who were homeless in the county. Add to this number the Thurston County Housing Authority 1994 estimate that 3,400 residents in this county homeless during the year. The situation is growing more serious yet public officials seem to be going out of their way to make it more unbearable.

When Olympia made it illegal for the homeless to sleep under the 4th Ave bridge three years ago, it was with the promise that they would provide some alternative for the largely homeless single men. The city did nothing. Out of desperation, the First Baptist Church opened an emergency shelter for 6 months to fill the gap providing shelter for up to 70 men nightly. After 18 months they finally closed their doors, and still, the city had done nothing. The Mission of Hope sprung up last year to provide shelter after two people died on the streets, one across the street from the Salvation Army. (He was on their denial list.) The Mission of Hope had 40-45 people for their Sunday meal. It was closed down because the landlord would not maintain it -- not bringing the place up to code. It had two illegal landfills on the property, and the landlord was trying to get it annexed by the city. While the Salvation Army is often pointed to as an option for homeless men, the Salvation Army has 200 people on their denial list for non-violent offences: drinking, lack of identification, wheel-chair bound, lack of forward progress (time limit). The Salvation Army is the primary way to get plugged in to the Emergency Housing Network and that is primarily geared to helping families and women with children.

Hunger and Social Services

There are over 30 million hungry people in the United States (a disgustingly large percentage of children), a number that has doubled in the past decade. The US easily qualifies for its own foreign aid, however, the federal, state, and local governments are slow to respond to the need, and actually seem intent on cutting back or even eliminating what is already there. Over 600 private emergency food provider agencies exist now, compared with only 30 in 1981. They have never been able to keep up with the rise in hunger, which will worsen as the cuts in the federal food stamp program affect an estimated half million people. Since the inception of this program in the 1960s, it has been consistently underfunded. Single people will now be eligible for only three months out of every three years. Even with the suggested projected "fixing" of this policy to three months out of every year, people are going to be hungry nine months out of the year.

Jobs and Wages

Real wages continue to decline as cost of living rises. Man Power, Inc, a temp agency, has become the biggest employer in the nation, guaranteeing nothing, except maybe work for a day at minimum wage, if you're lucky. One of the man in Bill and Bob's camp works daily for Labor Ready, a temp agency in Tumwater. He has never been able to save enough to afford first and last months rent plus damage deposit. It is not possible for people to get ahead financially with non-union, minimum wage jobs, whose cost-of-living criteria is based on standards and conditions from the 1970s.

Like TV Nation's Michael Moore said in his recent visit to Seattle: Why don't we throw everyone out of the factories. And when they turn to crime (or when we turn them into criminals), why don't we imprison them and make them work for pennies of what they used to earn.

What does it mean when the number of police has doubled in the past fifteen years and our national leaders are promising 100,000 more? Historically, during social upheaval police forces are expanded and their powers broadened. In the American Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression of the 1930s, and the turbulent 1960s, police were use to control dissent and laws were created to limit constitutional rights. The role of law enforcement is first and foremost to preserve the social order, whether it be slavery, imperialism, or homelessness. What will happen now that homelessness is rising, and that prisons are the fastest growing industry in the nation? We have currently the largest gap that has ever existed between the rich and the poor, and it will get worse: NAFTA, demonization of women on welfare, rapid increases in the mechanization of labor, expanding child and prison labor, continuing profitability of downsizing, endlessly record-setting market speculation, and the disturbing concentration of corporate power. The War on the Poor is going to intensify.

Third Annual Social Justice and Equality Conference in Olympia

Women's Equality in the Struggle for Justice

Larry Mosqueda & Venedel C. Herbito

Women's Equality in the Struggle for Justice

Saturday, November 9
9a.m.-5p.m.

First Christian Church
701 Franklin Street Southeast

"Women hold up half the sky..."
Chinese Proverb

Women have always played a crucial role in social movements nationally and internationally. They continue to be significant participants in various struggles, whether they be immigrant workers on strike in the U.S., protesters against neocolonialism in the Philippines, or guerrillas in the indigenous uprising in Mexico. Yet, within the progressive movement itself, there still exists different levels of sexism, whose contemporary social structures root from the political, economical, social, and cultural history of the people in question. Overall, women must not only fight against sexism in today's "general" society, but also within the very progressive movement that they have helped to strengthen and empower. How can women continue to battle against sexism in "general" society when the very movement that supports their struggles continues to be sexist? This is the primary issue that has provoked the theme for this year's "Social Justice and Equality Conference."

Several local organizations and community groups have been gathering together since this summer to address the issue of sexism in the progressive movement. Among these groups are: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (O.M.J.P.), Works In Progress, Liberation Cafe, National Organization for Women (N.O.W.), Committee in Solidarity with the People of Mexico (C.S.P.M.), Hands Off Washington, Feminists In Self-defense Training (F.I.S.T.), Evergreen State College Labor Center, and the Evergreen Political Information Center (E.P.I.C.) and many others. The focus of this conference is to enhance the membership and participation of women in the progressive movement as well as to educate the "general public" about other current issues and struggles. Because few women participated in the previous conference, it was a conscious decision by the organizers to have the theme entitled "Women's Equality in the Struggle for Justice." We hope that this conference will be a step towards ending women's oppression in all the different fronts of the struggle.

All people working for peace and justice are welcome. The event is FREE, but donations will also be accepted to cut costs for publicity and outreach activities. Day care will be provided. Please R.S.V.P. the number of children that need attendance at least a week in advance. For further details, please contact Larry Mosqueda at The Evergreen State College 866-6000 ext.6513.

Conference Agenda:

9:00 - 9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30 - 9:40 Welcome and overview

9:40 - 11:00 Panel discussion.
Theme: "Women's Equality in the Struggle for Justice"

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:45 Workshops:
-F.I.S.T. (Feminists In Self-defense Training) I
-Palestinian Women in the international struggle
-Men Against Sexism
-Popular Culture, Race and Gender Issues
-Women in the Labor Movement

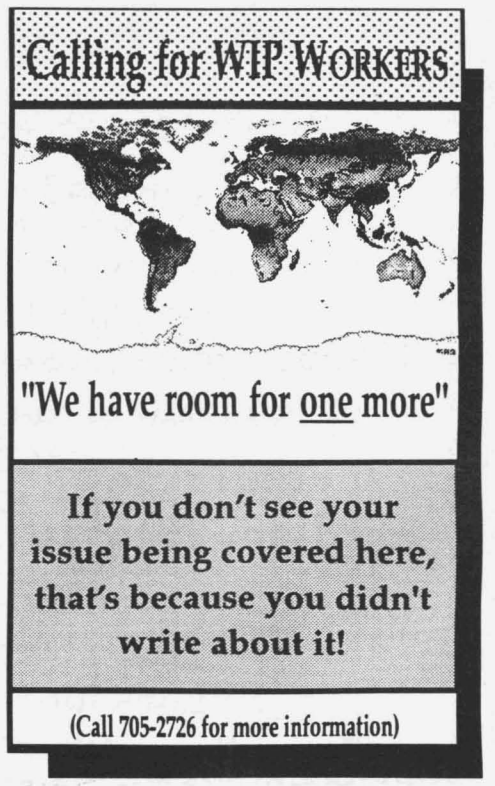
12:45 - 1:45 Lunch Break

1:45 - 3:15 Workshops
-F.I.S.T. (Feminists In Self-defense Training) II
-Zine production: Alternative Ways to Publicize Women's Issues
-Gay, Lesbian, and Transgendered Rights-Fighting the Far Right
-Central America, Mexico, and Cuba: Women in Third World struggles

3:15 - 3:30 Break

3:30 - 5:00 Final Plenary

Ad hoc workshops will be added if necessary. Other additional workshops will be announced on the day of the conference. Keep a look out for updated flyers.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If you don't see your issue being covered here, that's because you didn't write about it!
(Call 705-2726 for more information)

Along the Color Line

Strategy for 1996

Dr. Manning Marable

What approach should we take to revive the African-American and the progressive movements in the United States? What challenges and tasks are ahead as we confront the 1996 election?

Labor leaders, liberals and the Civil Rights community are already saying that our only political alternative is to endorse President Clinton and the Democratic Party. Certainly the election of Republican challenger Robert Dole would be a disaster for black people. Remember Dole's refusal to speak at the NAACP's annual convention this summer, sneering that Kweisi Mfume was "trying to set me up." Yet if we follow a strategy which focuses solely on the presidential campaign, we will limit our effectiveness in changing the parameters of American politics. We should approach electoral politics from the vantage point of building movements for social justice. We need to enhance the organizational capacity and effectiveness of institutions which are sites for democratic resistance and grassroots mobilization.

Progressives and activists can make the case that the growing divisions of race, class and gender, the decline of real wages and the destruction of social services create the conditions for a nonviolent resistance movement.

There are four key components in this strategy for progressive political change: building institutions which empower working class and poor people; initiating protests involving civil disobedience and direct action; supporting independent political activities and organizations; and isolating and defeating the Right.

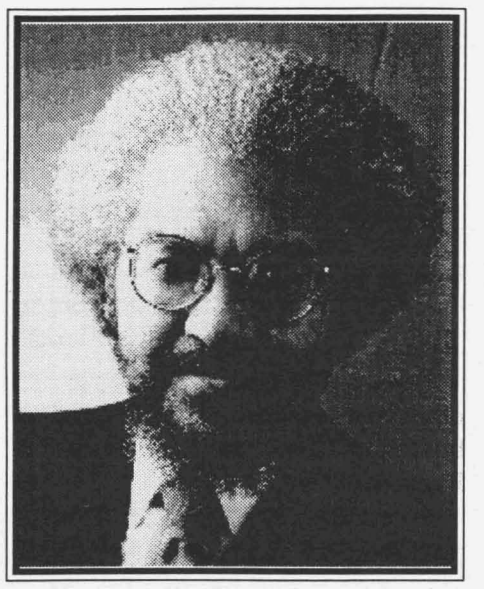
It is absolutely clear that the Far Right deliberately manipulates racism as a tool to polarize voters. Many of the issues which will define the 1996 election — affirmative action, minority scholarships at universities, majority/minority legislative districts, Proposition 187 — all involve race. Yet black people must become more active in building movements that bring people from many different racial and ethnic backgrounds, to fight for common concerns. Problems like poverty, inadequate housing and health care don't have a solution that applies solely to one race. Especially in urban centers, we need to support and strengthen institutions which advocate the interest of working and poor people. Two types of these institutions are labor unions and community-based organizations. With new national leadership the AFL-CIO is attempting to reverse decades of decline. Throughout the country, unions are making new efforts in organizing low wage workers, who are disproportionately Latino and black. Community-based organizations are active in a whole range of activities, from struggles around public transportation to environmental racism. The most dynamic forms of democratic resistance occur when labor and community groups collaborate with each other. In Chicago, ACORN and SEIU local 880 have initiated a "Chicago Jobs and Living Wage Campaign," which includes 60 union locals, community and church groups. When ACORN organized 200 home care workers in Chicago, that mobilization sparked the development of an SEIU local that has over 11,000 members.

Second, we should revive many of the protest tactics of civil disobedience and nonviolence to confront our opponents. We will recall that in the 1950s and 1960s, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Civil Rights organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Congress of Racial Equality used passive resistance as an effective protest technique to challenge segregation. Today's barrier of color and class, however, is social inequality, challenged by struggles for a living wage, employment, universal health care, education and housing. The nation has moved rapidly toward greater socio-economic inequality, reducing the wages of millions of families, as social programs have been slashed. Progressives and activists can make the case that the growing divisions of race, class and gender, the decline of real wages and the destruction of social services create the conditions for a nonviolent resistance movement.

One model is provided by the struggles surrounding a newspaper strike in Detroit. Weekly blockades of the newspaper's headquarters have led to over 300 arrests including public officials, feminists, antiracist activists and religious leaders. As the anti-apartheid struggle a decade ago illustrated, people from various classes and races can be inspired and mobilized if the cause is just, and if the target for active resistance is clear.

Third, progressives must emphasize creative and independent activism inside the electoral arena. This includes support for independent movements like the New Party which are running candidates in local races. More importantly, an innovative approach to electoralism is represented by ACORN's "living wage" referenda campaigns. We must support efforts to move our electoral system toward proportional representation.

Finally, we have to do everything in our power to defeat the ultra-Right Republicans this November, most prominently Dole. I fully recognize that the Clinton administration has pursued many policies which are opposed to working people's and racial minorities' interests. But we should not advocate the reelection of Clinton per se, but the defeat of Dole and the "Contract With America." We need to emphasize voter registration and mobilizing on election day, especially in minority neighborhoods. But our approach must be honest and realistic: Clinton's victory will not address our basic problems. But a triumph for



Dole would give conservative Republicans total control over all branches of government — the Executive branch, Congress and the Supreme Court. We cannot afford to let this happen.

This approach to progressive politics should not be construed as a simplistic revival of sixties' protests. Civil disobedience, by itself, cannot reverse the politics of reaction. Voting, by itself, is not sufficient to defeat the conservative Republican agenda. What is required is the integration and coordination of various tactics of democratic resistance, all of which are anchored to a strategic vision for the transformation of American society. The language of that social vision must address real contradictions that working people experience and feel every day. What we can achieve now may be the beginnings of a much broader democratic movement, that actually contends for power.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 275 newspapers across the US and internationally.

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Cut the Crap

Viewing Olympia with Jersey-Colored Glasses

Greg Hohnholt

As last month's issue of *Works in Progress* hit the streets, I was taking off on a 737 to return to my state of birth, New Jersey. After three post-Evergreen years of low wage jobs, I had finally earned a paid vacation and saved enough money to catch up with friends and family after a five year separation.

My two week respite from life's mundane responsibilities was long overdue. Naturally a rest would refresh me no matter what my destination, but I wondered how my old neighborhood would stack up against my new home of Olympia. I had left my mother state a bitter person looking for something better, but not quite sure of what that 'something' was beyond the usual vague aspirations for a more prestigious job, richer life experiences, and most importantly, a feeling of belonging. Too many of these aspirations have yet to be realized. Like many of you, I suspect, I am inclined to feel undervalued at those circumspect times when one contemplates what they have and haven't achieved, and, basking in the brusque light of mortality, one's choices are inevitably called into question. But going back to Jersey did give me some much-needed perspective on seeing what opportunities my choosing to move here gave me. And, conversely, how the opportunities in Jersey have shrunk.

Encroaching corporatization

I first realized that changes had been made in my absence on the drive back from Newark airport. Coming up around exit 116 on the Garden State Parkway, I noticed that the old Garden State Arts Center, an outdoor arena that hosts a variety of musical entertainment, had been renamed the "PNC Bank Arts Center". Privatization, the hallmark of big money conservatives, had evidently become, at least in a symbolic sense, the hallmark of governor Christie Todd Whitman's administration.

A little closer to home, off Route 9, I noticed that there were more strip malls with identically colored illuminated signs (usually all red). The little funky independent stores all looked near death, some with the same weather-beaten or dilapidated signs as when I left. And not one, but *two* Wal-Marts had moved into my stomping grounds in the Howell-Bricktown area. Inspecting the huge, monolithic, cold, grey building, I proudly told my brother (who had picked me up at the airport) that Olympia had shut Wal-Mart out.

That ride home got me to thinking. "So this is what Ralph Nader meant by his phrase 'going corporate,'" I mused. I couldn't have received a starker example of the difference between my old community in Bricktown and my new adopted community in Olympia. Grassroots activists DO make a difference!

Political machines and ATM rip-offs

During my two week travels to visit other friends in Huntington, NY and Philadelphia, PA, I witnessed other examples of the power of citizen activism (or more accurately how corporations gained power from a lack of it). In Long Island, my friend complained of the abuses of the NY political machine and how old money in her community stifled change and nurtured alienation and apathy. In Philadelphia, my friend was forced to pay a $1.50 ATM fee to make a small withdrawal of his own money!

Can you imagine the outrage that would erupt here if Seafirst Bank tried to institute such a policy? I'd like to think that mass withdrawals from Seafirst accounts would be the immediate reaction here, with many of our local credit unions anxious to pick up those disgruntled customers.

As Ralph Nader has alluded to time and time again on the campaign trail, we the people have power that we don't even know we rightfully own. I returned home with a renewed gratitude that the people of Olympia haven't ceded their power to corporate America to the extent that our east coast counterparts have.

Opportunities to grow

My vacation spurred me to ask myself this question: in what ways has Olympia resisted the false allure of corporatization? In general, my theory is that alienation and corporate power go hand in hand. When people become disaffected from their communities (as I had become five years ago), or simply don't have opportunities to get involved in civic activities, the virus of corporate domination finds easy prey. Local elected officials acquiesce to privatization schemes and are often not held accountable for their actions by a misinformed or ill-informed electorate.

When I moved to Olympia, I was fairly astounded at all the opportunities for growth and personal enrichment that perhaps many of you take for granted. I never knew what a cooperative was when I lived in New Jersey; never heard of organic food or heard arguments against a meat -eating diet. If I wanted to see a current foreign or independent film, I had to go to New York and pay seven or eight dollars.

And volunteer opportunities? In Olympia, you can learn how to be a concessionaire at the Capital Theater, teach English as a Second Language at the Refugee and Immigration Service Center, write articles for *Works in Progress* (or other papers), learn how to produce and direct your very own TV show, do Street Karaoke right on 4th Avenue, and so many more that I haven't gotten around to yet! (e.g. doing a radio program on KAOS, putting on a show at the Midnight Sun, performing regularly at any one of our many open mics, etc., etc.). None of these opportunities existed for me in New Jersey. And they didn't cost me anything!

I'm grateful for the opportunities Olympia offers, and the many bright, caring and quirky folks I've had the pleasure of meeting and working with on community endeavors.

Thank you, Olympia!

When you're involved in your community, alienation has a tough time getting a foothold. So if election year cynicism has got you down, wake up and smell the coffee! I'm grateful for the opportunities Olympia offers, and the many bright, caring and quirky folks I've had the pleasure of meeting and working with on community endeavors. Together, they've given me that feeling of belonging that I craved so hopelessly in New Jersey.

(P.S. If you want to innoculate Olympia even more against corporate greed, two suggestions: get involved with (and USE) the local currency project that Paul Glover wrote about in last month's issue of *Works in Progress* and support the ongoing expansion of the activities at the Political Cultural Center/Liberation Cafe.)

Re-Elect

KAREN FRASER

STATE SENATOR
22nd DISTRICT - DEMOCRAT

Dear Voter —
I'll keep working hard for you!
Karen

MY TOP PRIORITIES
People's quality of life and opportunities
Environmental quality and recreational opportunities
Cost-effective government, responsive to the people, and respectful of employees

An experienced leader
- State Senator
- Chair, Senate Ecology and Parks Committee
- Chair, Joint Committee on Pension Policy
- State Representative
- Thurston County Commissioner
- Lacey Mayor and City Council Member
- Chair, Nisqually River Task Force

Recognized for her service
- Legislator of the Year:
  -Washington State Health Care Association (1996)
  -Planning Association of Washington (1996)
  -People for Puget Sound (1995)
  -Washington Federation of State Employees (1994)

Karen's style
- **Integrity and Effectiveness:** News media survey rates her among the top.
- **Fiscal Restraint:** Surveys of legislators' expenses regularly put her among the lowest.
- **Accessible and Independent:** She is accessible, a fair and respectful listener, and has the courage to vote based on her information-gathering and judgement.

KAREN'S SUPPORTER'S INCLUDE:

Washington Federation of State Employees
Washington Public Employees Association
Thurston-Lewis Counties Labor Council
Joint Council of Teamsters, No. 28
Privacy Fund/Hands Off Washington PAC
Freedom Vote
Retired Public Employees Council
Children's Campaign Fund
Washington Conservation Voters
Washington State NOW PAC
Washington NARAL PAC
Young Democrats of Washington
EMILY's List
The Olympian
Recommended by: Chinook Unitery Council/Washington Education Association

Paid for by: Citizens for Karen Fraser, Democrat, Lacey 491-4223
Web Page: http://www.com/barchey/fraser.htm

A Record You Can Trust

From the Inside Out

Restoring Community Justice

Dan Pens

For fifteen years I have observed the criminal justice system from the inside out. I have seen countless young men slapped with lengthy prison sentences and tossed into a concrete and steel waste bin, as if they were a useless piece of junk. God doesn't make any junk, though, and people are not disposable objects. I couldn't help but imagine there must be a better way.

There is. It's called restorative justice.

I decided to write on restorative justice after reading Paul Glover's article about local currency in the last *Works In Progress*. Local currency offers a positive focus for those who seek change rather than just opposing the current economic system. Local currency offers a concrete way for people to participate in an alternative economic system which strengthens the community. The restorative justice concept provides a focus for those who seek change, rather than simply opposing the current criminal justice system. As with local currency, restorative justice offers a way to empower and strengthen the community.

Restorative justice is a "new" field with ancient roots. Before the Norman conquest at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, local villages delivered justice by making the offender repay the victim. William the Conqueror reshaped crime into a disruption "of the King's peace." By requiring citizens to attend the King's court he gained power; by assessing fines that previously would have been paid to the victim, he gained wealth.

Much of William's influence echoes in the current criminal justice system, wherein a criminal trial is docketed as "The State versus...." The defendant is not charged with wronging the victim, but rather with violating the state's law.

Victims, having already suffered the indignity of being treated as an object by the offender, are then further objectified by a criminal justice system that relates to victims as little more than a source of evidence. When a case is plea bargained, victims have little or no active participation in the criminal justice process. Full restitution is rare, and in few cases is any attempt made to address the psychological and emotional needs of the victim. They are often left feeling forgotten and embittered.

When a criminal case goes to trial, the "adversarial" nature of the criminal justice process exerts itself. Neither the prosecution nor the defense attempts to present the truth, but rather to present only as much of the truth as will benefit their side.

In either case the offender is not required to confront the real human consequences of their crime, nor to take direct responsibility for those consequences. Since they are charged with an offense against "the State," the focus of the offender's attention is directed at "the system." Once again, the victim is forgotten. Ironically the offender often ends up feeling like they have been victimized by the process. They eventually land in prison, discarded, embittered, and angry at the system.

Is there something wrong with a criminal justice system by which victims, offenders, and the community all feel cheated? The American system of justice may have represented a progressive leap forward two-hundred years ago, but this adversarial, retributive, often arbitrary and increasingly senseless system of justice is showing its age. It's time for another quantum leap forward.

In restorative justice, the central issue is the harm done to the victim by the offender. Also of primary importance is the offender accepting responsibility and accountability for their actions. Restorative justice involves the active participation of the community.

The primary role of the community is to hold offender accountable for the harm they have done to the victim and to the community, and to support victims in meeting their needs in a way that restores peace to the community. All of these goals are addressed through a process of mediation between the victim(s) and offender(s) facilitated by trained mediators. The mediation sessions may also involve the participation of victims' or offenders' family members. Restorative justice is not just a nifty theory, however. There are currently more than 125 victim/offender mediation programs in the U.S. and Canada. One of them, *Mediation Services for Victims and Offenders* (formerly the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program or VORP), has operated in King County since 1983.

Since its inception, *Mediation Services for Victims and Offenders* has worked mainly with juvenile property offenders (typically car theft, burglary, theft, forgery, and vandalism) and their victims. Since 1993, however, they have considered expanding the mediation process to include both adult and violent offenders too.

At an agency retreat in 1995 a commitment was made to expand in these directions. Kate Hunter, the agency's Executive Director, received training in mediating serious violent crimes. The agency is moving cautiously forward in this direction, meanwhile continuing to focus mainly on juvenile property offenders referred to them through the King County court system.

Mediation Services for Victims and Offenders is a non- profit organization. Their mediators are highly trained dedicated volunteers. For more information about how to support their work, contact:

Mediation Services for Victims and Offenders
1305 Fourth Avenue, Suite 606
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 621- 8871.

For further reading on restorative justice, I highly recommend the following books: *Changing Lenses*, Howard Zehr (1990), Herald Press: Scottsdale, PA; *Victim Meets Offender: The Impact of Restorative Justice and Mediation*, Mark Umbreit (1994), Criminal Justice Press: Monsey, NY.

That's about all for this month, except to say that I hope you share my enthusiasm for innovative social experiments like local currency and restorative justice. We all have choices. We can spend our lives bemoaning the many injustices of "the system." Or we can build alternatives. Until next month, greetings from the gulag.

Dan Pens is co-editor of Prison Legal News. A free sample issue of PLN is available upon request by writing to: Dan Pens #279308 P.O. Box 888 Monroe, WA 98272-0888

The restorative justice concept provides a focus for those who seek change, rather than simply opposing the current criminal justice system [and] offers a way to empower and strengthen the community.

PARADIGMS OF JUSTICE

[Taken from Howard Zehr and amended by Kate Hunter]

OLD Retributive Justice	NEW Restorative Justice
1.) Crime defined as violation against the state.	1.) Crime defined as violation against a person.
2.) Focus of attention on offender and fixing blame.	2.) Focus on needs of victim to be made whole.
3.) Adversarial process with dependence upon professional proxies.	3.) Dialogue and direct negotiation between victim and offender.
4.) Imposition of pain to punish and deter.	4.) Learning consequences and taking responsibility as means to deter and restore.
5.) Justice defined by legal rules.	5.) Justice defined by parties' feelings of fairness.
6.) One social injury replaced by another.	6.) Focus on repair of social injury.
7.) Community on sideline, represented in the abstract by the state.	7.) Community as active facilitator in the restorative process.
8.) Action directed from state to offender, leaving victim ignored and offender in passive role.	8.) Victim and offender as active in the solution with victims' rights and needs recognized and offender encouraged to take responsibility.
9.) Offender accountability defined as taking punishment called "paying debt to society."	9.) Offender accountability defined as understanding impact of action and being part of making things right.
10.) Offense defined in purely legal terms, devoid of moral, emotional, social, or economic dimensions.	10.) Offense understood in whole context, moral, emotional, social, and economic.
11.) No encouragement for apology and forgiveness.	11.) Possibility for apology and forgiveness.

RAMBLE
IMPORTS & ODDITIES
202 W. 4th Ave
Olympia
Great Wool Sweaters
Cool Backpacks
Mukluks & Mittens
Candles & Incense
Tons of Tapestries
come & take a look!

In Peaceful Struggle

Building Cross Cultural Bridges in the Environmental Movement

SwanEagle

The following is the second part in a three part series where author Swaneagle works to acquaint, familiarize, and educate people with opposing political views. She talks with Natives, environmental activists, militias, loggers and white supremacists as part of her struggle to keep non-violence in focus. Swaneagle hopes to build cross cultural bridges and recognizes that the monumental task is "to assure that death threats don't materialize, that those who have been beaten receive support and get their story out, that all people who have had to contend with arson, harassment, unlawful arrest and other vicious attacks weren't hurt in vain." Part One was an introductory description of both herself and where she has facilitated communication with members of the Christian Identity, the background to the anti-environmental movement and militias. Part Two has examples of specific instances and interviews with the lessens to be learned for loggers and environmentalists about each other and about Natives.

The proximity of the Cove/Mallard blockade to both the Nez Perce and to Bo Gritz's place struck me as a perfect example of a phenomenon existing throughout the west. It was my intention to address this at the - Rising River Rendezvous which i did in a workshop and by getting information to those who expressed interest. It was also my intention to attempt communicating with Cove/ Mallard defenders, loggers and Nez Perce people.

I first interviewed the Mother of 5 children, Micha Wolfgang, who had her home torched in Vermont because of her Pagan beliefs and her environmental work. Luckily no one carried out the death threats she also received. Now Homeless and traveling with 3 of her children, she seeks a safe place to be.

Sara Seeds has been part of the blockade for a number of years that has succeeded in keeping the logging road from completion. She recalled the intimidating experience she and others in the Seeds of Peace collective endured in their home in Berkeley where Darryl Cherney and Judi Bari had stayed the night before they were bombed in the spring of 1990. Police in bullet proof vests showed up, handcuffed Sara and other residents, held them at gunpoint without telling why such action was necessary. Jailed overnight, they came back to a trashed house and never were charged with any crime. Her second experience with illegal search and seizure was at Cove/Mallard last year when she was arrested with 11 others locked down on the current blockade site. Three young women were forced to strip in front of a male Forest Service Officer and change into the jail jumpsuit. All 5 women arrested said "No, I won't strip in front of a man."' Sara and another larger woman refused to strip until allowed to do so privately. The other 3 women were young, inexperienced and smaller in stature, which contributed to their humiliation. Sara stressed the importance of knowing your rights and standing up for them when threatened.

The blockade was truly staggering in its determined immensity. My 3 year daughter, Taina, remained with those at the gate, some of whom were closer to her age than mine. My friend and i walked back for a mile and a half photographing the assortment of structures, piles of slash wrapped with yarn and chicken wire, stuffed up culverts, a concrete filled lock down site deep ditches, etc. There was a man completely covered in camouflage including his scarf hidden face who nodded when i asked if i could take his picture. From the bottom of my heart i honor the herculean efforts these mythical tree huggers exhibit, carrying out their controversial duty.

We drove up to the base camp where I talked to Cindy who has been the cook there for 5 years. She recalled the story of the formation of the camp. Then she shared some of the problems the camp has faced being harassed by police, Forest Service agents and locals. One Freddie kicked her 17 year old dog, Bones, in the ribs sending Cindy into a rage temporarily, suspending her nonviolence commitment. Her friends restrained her. She expressed sorrow that the people who were supportive of their defense of the roadless area in the town of Dixie now were hostile. She said that she herself had lived with a logger for 7 years and participated in the destruction. She now hopes to do something to compensate for the damage done. Though at times she feels her tireless efforts go unappreciated, Cindy's devotion to this issue was very moving. She told me that a Nez Perce couple comes to visit occasionally, bringing venison to the blockaders. She said that they went to Lapwai in 1993 to share a Friendship Feast with the Nez Perce people. There also is an annual softball game between the Indian community and the Cove/Mallard defenders. She was able to give me the name of the Nez Perce couple and their phone number, but i was unable to reach them when driving thru Lapwai. Hopefully i will be able to meet them sometime soon.

The night we stayed at the base camp, we sat around the fire talking with a small group of people about Earth First, Indians and alcohol. I told how someone at the RRR told me the Nez Perce let it be known that they couldn't camp with EF! because of the alcohol consumption by the enviros. Someone else said the Indians pulled way back because of that, although i was not able to confirm this. That people are connecting with the Nez Perce is encouraging and important. I would like to do what i can to see that this connection is prioritized. One woman who is a freelance reporter from Connecticut expressed outrage that EF! activists party with alcohol the night before the action following the RRR. What i saw myself at the rally as the beer and wine flowed from early afternoon til who knows when was deeply disturbing to me. I saw a very drunk teenage girl. I saw one man trip into the fire catching his hair aflame, snuffed out quickly by his companions. After a conversation with a tipsy, respected enviro from the area where i live, it occurred to me that RRR rallies present perfect windows of opportunity for infiltrators to exploit vulnerable drunks. My goddess, it's simply stupid. The prominence of alcohol astounded me. I saw a vehicle drive kegs up to the rowdy fire for the rally. A Mother with 3 small children couldn't find help to haul water to her camp. Given the hateful attitude some partiers have towards Mothers calling them "Breeders" and treating them and their children with disdain, it was little surprise seeing the high regard kegs enjoy. It reminds me of the success chemical drugs have had in destroying elements of alternative culture that was striving for a better life.

From the bottom of my heart i honor the herculean efforts these mythical tree huggers exhibit, carrying out their controversial duty.

My friend said something about the courage of EF! alcoholics compared to alcoholics who stand for nothing. Though there's truth in that, i must say we are in an unprecedented crisis requiring the best energy we each have to give. The dysfunctional trappings that go with alcohol are serious drawbacks undermining the quality and power of, as yet, untapped potential. Alcohol is an undeniable tool of genocide used against many peoples. Its impact upon Native American communities is devastating. These lands where the oldest trees grow are sacred to Indian people and have been for countless centuries. I humbly beg true hearted, courageous white skinned frontliners to consider the missing place of indigenous perspective at Cove/Mallard before it's too late as it is now for the Dosewallips and the Sugarloaf. We, who claim awareness, must sit quiet with no alcohol, no multi-national or microbrew, and hear the silence that waits to be filled with the most important, missing voices...

One young man from Salt Lake City was sitting at that base camp fire. He said he does sweats with an Indian man who uses alcohol as medicine including drinking with the punks at concerts. He went on about sacred use of alcohol by other tribes. His position struck me as being one of justification, a view i hadn't contended with before. It was sad to me. I wonder if they use sacred Miller beer or sacred Budweiser. Be wary of such sweat leaders. Take guidance from Elders who carry traditional clarity.

Barry "Plunker" Adams, one of the founders of the Rainbow Gatherings, told me a story about Dave Foreman. He said that Dave helped Feather and Jason find the site for the Arizona Gathering. When it began, Dave walked in with 2 six packs of beer and was told that alcohol was not tolerated. The first RRR happened the following year by the Glen Canyon Dam advertised as "WITH BEER". Any other versions of that story out there? Perhaps the good ol' boy beer-swigging model needs to be retired. Try it, it might save the Earth.

My-friend, daughter and i went to the Austin camp during the RRR. Being new to the EF! scene, we didn't know many people. Food was shared, beer chugged, dogs nosed about and men began singing while a couple of young women canoed. I saw one young woman pick up a guitar, but a man took it maintaining the male only performance. As more beer was consumed, the din grew louder drowning the lyrics. The atmosphere was tavern-like unpleasant and distinctly male-dominated. We left. In contrast, the Quiet Fire a few nights later was a magical orchestration of talents, non-competitive, inspiring and lively, circled under the stars. It was a taste of what could be...

Next month: on the road, talking with loggers and such.

FIRST NATION BRIEFS

On Indian Land --
First Nations' Struggles & Resistances

The following are excerpts from On Indian Land, Fall 1996, *a quarterly magazine published by Support for Native Sovereignty (SNS). "SNS is a Puget Sound area group working to support Native American land struggles, religious rights, political prisoners and other issues. Our support is guided by the type and extent of assistance asked for by Native groups. Our work includes producing a quarterly newspaper and other educational material, collecting money and materials for specific struggles, and where appropriate, taking part in coordinated direct actions and assistance."*

Subscriptions to On Indian Land *are $10/yr, $20 for institutions, $20 international. All submissions of articles, reviews, poetry, artwork, photography, etc. are welcome.*

Support for Native Sovereignty
PO Box 2104
Seattle, WA 98111
(206) 525-5086
email: vtd4@netrix.net

Yankton Sioux Oppose Reservation Waste Dump

Information from the Yankton Sioux Tribe, Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center, and Greenpeace

Violating tribal sovereignty, ignoring this and other tribal resolutions, and over the strenuous opposition of the tribal government and the general population, the US Environmental Protection Agency has approved construction of a solid waste landfill on the Yankton Sioux Reservation at Lake Andes, South Dakota.

Located within five miles of the Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary and the Eagle Refuge, the Tribe states that the dump will be authorized to accept asbestos, lime and wastewater sludge, industrial waste, waste oil, lead-acid batteries, and other toxic waste. They further state the dump is in violation of state regulations because of its proximity to water tributaries, stock dams, springs, and Highway 50.

Even though construction is near completion, the Yankton Sioux are determined to continue their fight against siting of the landfill on their reservation. At a recent General Council meeting they affirmed this in a virtually unanimous vote to continue their opposition.

For more information, contact Jim Stone, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Box 248, Marty, SD 57361; (605) 384-3804/384-3641, fax (605) 384-5687.

Sioux Tribes Apply for Land Compensation

Information from Indian Country Today and other sources.

Three Sioux tribes are applying for money, referred to as Docket 74-A funds, allocated by the federal government to compensate Indian tribes for the theft of land from the entire Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nation. The three tribes, the Santee Sioux of Nebraska, Flandreau Santee Sioux, and Fort Peck Sioux are requesting legislation that will release the Docket 74-A funds.

Docket 74-A is a 48-million acre claim consisting of 14 million acres of Aboriginal title land east of the Missouri River and 34 million acres of recognized title land west of the River. This area, known as the Great Sioux Nation, was illegally taken by the federal government.

"Progress" Decimates Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Information from the Cheslatta Carrier Nation

The Cheslatta Carrier Nation of north central British Columbia, like other First Nations in BC, have never ceded their lands to Canada. However this didn't stop Alcan Aluminum and the Canadian government from forcing an eviction of the Cheslatta people from their homes and villages along Cheslatta Lake in 1952. On April 21, 1952, Alcan's Kemano #1 project began flooding Cheslatta Territory in order to draw hydroelectricity for a new aluminum smelter.

Since 1952, a rich self-sufficient Cheslatta hunting and trapping lifestyle has been completely destroyed by the greed of corporations and government. The Cheslatta people became refugees in their own country. New gravesites in the Grassy Plains area have filled with Cheslatta people who have died from alcoholism and drug abuse, afflictions never known to the Cheslatta people before their first taste of "development and progress."

This reality is too common when indigenous societies experience complete cultural displacement as a result of theft and exploitation of their homelands and are forced onto government welfare. Cheslatta Chief Marvin Charlie often speaks about how many of his people live in condemned homes while millions and millions of dollars are extracted in resources from his territory. "If we as a band did this to white people -- chased them out of their homes and destroyed their homes and graveyards -- we'd be locked up," says Chief Marvin.

If this story wasn't enough to finish off the Cheslatta, salt will be poured into their wounds as construction of the Huckleberry Mine Ltd., open pit copper mine continues Huckleberry Mine Ltd., (HML) will be financed by Vancouver BC-based Princeton Mining Corp and Japan's Mitsubishi Materials Corp with a mine development plan of C$157 million ($117 million).

Karen Wristen, the Sierra Legal Defense Fund lawyer also representing Friends of the Lubicon, filed for an injunction hearing in the BC Supreme Courts to stop all work on the proposed Huckleberry copper mine. The Cheslatta argue that wildlife issues brought to the table during environmental review weren't resolved. Proper field studies had not been done and water quality concerns weren't satisfactorily addressed. The Cheslatta also have unanswered questions about the life span, eventual size and proposed development of the mine.

By November 1996, HML expects to have logged a total of 1420 acres of forest to clear land for the open pit copper mine. That equals 3000 logging truck loads in just a few months. Evidence has already been uncovered that road building and site preparation work for HML caused damage. Due to late spring weather and unusual snowpack, heavy runoff caused HML and gullies becoming clogged with silt. The damage will threaten nearby fish bearing streams and Cheslatta wants the matter investigated.

For more information contact the Cheslatta Carrier Nation, PO Box 909, Burns Lake, BC VOJ 1EO, CANADA; (604) 694-3334, fax (604) 694-3632.

Trial Date Set for Stoney Point Members Charged in Defence of Their Territory

by Tariq Hassan-Gordon, from the Prison News Service, Spring 1996

Members of the Stoney Point First Nation appeared in the Sarnia Provincial Court on May 13, 1996. The 23 people face 2 criminal charges each: 1 count of forcible entering and 1 count of forcible detaining of a park. All charges relate to the September 4, 1995 occupation of Ipperwash Provincial Park.

Despite the fact that the federal government released documents on September 14, 1995 indicating that there was an Aboriginal burial ground in the provincial park, the police continue to treat the situation as an illegal occupation. Negotiations are currently underway to return the former Ipperwash military training base and Ipperwash Provincial Park to area First Nations.

Considering the political tensions in the area, the continued increase in police activity has seriously affected the Stoney Point peoples' effort to organize the return of their territory from the federal government.

All the criminal charges that have been laid are part of the campaign to criminalize the inherent rights of the Stoney Point people. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has called on the Canadian government to investigate the Ontario Provincial Police use of force and their actions throughout the Stoney Point re-occupation of their territory. Despite international condemnation, the people of Stoney Point are still being criminalized.

The strategy of criminalization is part of the overall agenda of the colonial federal, provincial, and municipal governments, local colonial settlers, and the neo-colonial Kettle and Stoney Point Band Council to dispossess the Stoney Point people of their traditional territory.

For more information contact: Marcia George Simon, RR2 Forest, Ontario N0N 1J0, CANADA. To donate in the US make checks out to Indian World specify "Stoney Point Legal Fund" sent to Indian World, 17321 Telegraph S 207, Detroit, MI 48219; (313) 535-9728, fax (313) 535-7822.

Canadian Court Convicts Defenders of Nuxalk Lands

On June 17, 1996, the trial of 21 protectors of Ista (Fog Creek) a Nuxalk sacred site, began in British Columbia Supreme Court. In September 1995, the defendants, members of the Nuxalk Nation and their supporters from Forest Action Network, were part of a month long blockade to protect Nuxalk territory from logging. All the defendants were convicted of violating an injunction prohibiting their blockade. When they were presented with the injunction 1 week after initiation of the blockade, they responded by burning it.

Although the Nuxalk Nation has no treaty with the Canadian government and has never ceded their lands, the BC provincial government issued a permit to International Forest Products, Ltd., (Interfor), a Canadian logging company, to clearcut Nuxalk traditional territory. Last summer Interfor began road building in the center of Ista on Nuxalknalus (King Island) an inland island off the coast of Bella Coola, BC.

The Nuxalk Nation asserts their right as a sovereign nation to protect their unceded lands. The BC court, however refuses to recognize Nuxalk sovereignty and has ruled they have no jurisdiction over their own territory. Although the court has been asked to prove its jurisdiction over Nuxalk lands, it is unable to produce extinguishment papers for Nuxalk territory.

Despite their arrest and conviction, the Nuxalk intend to continue to defend their territory. Says Head Hereditary Chief Nuximlayc, "If we as a people of the land continue to allow the destruction of Mother Earth, our existence is in question. But if we stand up to protect all that is natural, our existence is not in question."

For more information or for how you can help contact: Nuxalk Nation House of Smayusta, PO Box 8, Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0, CANADA.; (604) 799-5376, fax (604) 799-5707; FAN PO Box 625, Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0, CANADA.; (604) 799-5800, fax (604) 799-5830.

Injunction Against Protecting Sacred Site

by Marsha Shaiman

"Native people have revered the Tower (to the Lakota the 'Mato Tipi') since time immemorial. They have gathered for generations each June, the summer solstice season, to give thanks for all creation during annual renewal ceremonies. Unlike Christian religions, these ceremonies cannot be held in other locations; the native religious adherents are so instructed by the Creator."

Steve Moor, senior staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund,

wrote this statement to explain why a federal judge should uphold a commercial climbing ban of Bear Lodge (Devil's Tower National Monument) in the Black Hills of Wyoming during the month of June. 23 tribes consider Bear Lodge to be sacred and a growing number of Natives are holding Sun Dance ceremonies there around the summer solstice.

The plan states that in "respect for the reverence many American Indians hold for Devil's Tower as a sacred site, rock climbers will be asked to voluntarily refrain from climbing on Devil's Tower during the culturally significant month of June." The plan also provides for a ban on issuance of commercial climbing permits for the month of June.

Steve Moore wrote in response to the injunction prohibiting the ban: "Given the unique nature of Native American religions, and their essential connection to sacred sites on public lands, to treat native religions equal to other religions, courts must accommodate native ritual practice, as does the Park Service plan for the Tower. The federal court's decision instead sends the message to native people that their religions are not entitled to meaningful protection."

Mt. Graham Cultural Studies Required

Apache Survival Coalition

The Presidents Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the executive agency that has executive oversight authority for the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance nationwide, has acknowledged that the University of Arizona's recent Large Binocular Telescope relocation and construction atop Mt. Graham is a federal undertaking under the NHPA which requires full consideration of the Native American traditional cultural use of Mt. Graham by the Apaches. Section 110 of the NHPA requires the Forest Service to identify and nominate to the National Register historic properties located on all lands it administers.

Dr. Keith Vasso, Professor of Anthropology, University of New Mexico, and Trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution has stated:

"Since time immemorial Apache ceremonials have been conducted at designated places. Important consequences follow from the fact that these places are invested by the Apache with specific kinds of significance. I was privileged to teach at the University of Arizona for 15 years. I believe, however, that the University's handling of the Mt. Graham issue with regard to the Apache people of the San Carlos has been unfortunate and disturbing. More specifically, I believe that the University position on Mt. Graham displays a stunning lack of regard for Apache religious beliefs."

For more information and how you can help please contact Michael V. Nixon, attorney for the Apache Survival Coalition, (503) 234-6800; Ola Cassadore Davis, Apache Survival Coalition, (520) 475-2543; Windsler Nosie, Sr, Apache for Cultural Preservation, (520) 475-2494; Keith Vasso, Professor of Anthropology, University of New Mexico, (520) 535-5306; Elizabeth Merritt, Legal Counsel National Trust for Historic Preservation, (202) 588-6035.

Federal Government Refuses to Recognize Duwamish Tribe

Information form the Duwamish Tribe and other sources

"For three days, I was in devastation, but the truth will prevail," responded Duwamish Tribal Chair Cecile Maxwell Hansen to news that the government proposes to not acknowledge the 390 member Duwamish Indian Tribe as a federally recognized tribe. The Duwamish originally inhabited the land upon which the City of Seattle was built, but were driven out of their homeland long ago by European settlers. An announcement in the June 28, 1996 Federal Register, denying the Tribe recognition states:

"The petitioner's current members do not maintain a community that is distinct from the surrounding non-Indian population. No geographical area of concentrated settlement provides them with a social core. The group's geographical dispersion is consistent with other evidence showing that members do not maintain and have not maintained significant social contact with each other."

The three criteria used to deny the Duwamish recognition are the same three used in the preliminary denial of recognition for the Samish Tribe, who had to go to court to finally get federal recognition. Some of the evidence used to support denial for both tribes is similar.

The Suwamish Tribe asked its membership what they wanted to do as a result of the proposed denial, "Ninety to ninety-five percent said 'Go on,'" according to Cecile Maxwell Hansen.

For more information contact the Duwamish Tribe, 140 Rainier Ave. S., Suite 7, Renton, WA 98055; (206) 226-5185, fax (206) 226-5240. Linda Dombrowski, Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington, 3040 96th St. S., Tacoma, WA 98409; (206) 589-7101.

Samish Federal Recognition Back In Court

by Marsha Shaiman

The Samish Indian Tribe of western Washington has again taken the Department of Interior to federal court. A July 1996 hearing was held over the terms of the Tribe's newly granted federal recognition. An earlier lawsuit filed against DOI by the Tribe resulted in Administrative Law Judge David Torbett's September 1995 decision which recommended that DOI grant the Samish Federal recognition. DOI complied in April 1996 but modified key findings in Judge Torbett's decision and left out others in their final decision, prompting the Samish to file their recent lawsuit.

Samish aboriginal territory encompasses the San Juan Islands and the coastal areas of northern Puget Sound in western Washington State. Ancestors of current tribal leadership signed the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliot and the Tribe was federally recognized until 1969. At that time a low-level Bureau of Indian Affairs clerk removed them from a list of federally recognized tribes.

The Samish, along with four other unrecognized western Washington tribes, sued in the 1970s to participate in the Boldt decision which granted western Washington tribes 50% of the salmon harvest. Judge Boldt responded in 1979 by declaring the five tribes extinct. The Samish later applied under the Federal Acknowledgment Process, established in 1978, to regain their recognition but received preliminary denial in 1982, which was made final in 1987.

Continuing their struggle for recognition, the Samish filed suit in federal court to reverse the BIA's decision against recognition. In 1992 the BIA's declaration that the Tribe did not exist was reversed by US District Court Judge Thomas Zilly. He said that the BIA's informal administrative hearing violated the Tribe's constitutional right to due process.

The Samish were not allowed to cross-examine BIA experts, not to present their own; they were not given access to materials used by the BIA to reach their decision. Judge Zilly also said that apparently some of the decision makers had prejudged the Samish's case. The BIA was ordered to hold a formal administrative hearing on the Samish's recognition application.

In August 1994 the Samish had their hearing, before Judge Torbett. One year later he issued his decision recommending acknowledgment. The Samish are the first unrecognized tribe to be granted a court hearing since the institution of the Federal Acknowledgment Process and the first to gain recognition by this route.

For more information contact the Samish Tribe, PO Box 217, Anacortes, WA 98221, (360) 293-6404.

Resistance at Lyle Point

Information from the Lyle Point Action Committee

A new campaign to save this historic Columbia River landmark has begun. The Lyle Point controversy has been raging since an east coast land speculation and development company bought Lyle Point several years ago...This is the chance to ensure that ten thousand years of Native American cultural presence will not become a secluded housing development.

Lyle Point has been and continues to be a "usual and accustomed" scaffold fishing site for the River People. Historical journals and tribal elders of the Yakama and other Indian Nations tell of an ancient Indian village at Lyle Point that was abandoned due to disease. Oral history tells of this village where Native people died of disease contracted from their first contacts with whites. Disease spread to the entire village, killing all of the inhabitants. The Natives were buried on the site and the village remained intact and untouched for many years. Its remains were seen and recorded by Lewis and Clark...sacred sites and burial sites must not be desecrated.

Owned by Columbia Gorge Investors Ltd., "Klickitat Landing" the development proposed at Lyle Point, would consist of homes worth upwards of a quarter of a million dollars. Upon discovery of the construction, Native Americans and their supporters set up an encampment at Lyle Point to protect it from the developers. A sacred fire was lit and maintained until it was extinguished by county officials claiming fire danger. The traditional Native people from the area have held numerous religious ceremonies and cultural events at the Point over the course of their occupation.

Throughout the period of occupation the protectors of the Point have been harassed by the developer and surrounding communities. Tipis were burned, property stolen and destroyed, the longhouse torn down.

This spring the developers, the Yakama Nation, and the War Springs Nation concluded a court settlement allowing limited tribal access to the developers land for fishing purposes only. Although their Tribes have made this agreement to preserve fishing sites for their people, the traditional Native people who have fished for years at Lyle Point continue to express their unwillingness to fish amidst a gated, exclusive housing development built on sacred ground.

For more information on how you can help write Lyle Point Action Committee, c/o PO Box 512, Hood River, Or 97031. Chief Johnny Jackson, (509) 493-1686. Columbia Gorge Audubon Society, Jill Barker, (541) 478-3427; email: mediaisl@halcyon.com.

Slade Gorton Again Targets Lummi Nation

Information supplied by Lummi Nation

The Lummi Nation of northwest Washington State has been in negotiation since January 1996 with state and federal governments over their tribal water rights. In July of this year Senator Slade Gorton, for the second time, attempted to intimidate the Lummi Nation and undermined the negotiating process by proposing legislation designed to punish the Nation for asserting their rights.

On July 12, 1996, as negotiators were unanimously agreeing to extend discussions until September, Senator Gorton attached a rider to the 1997 Interior Department appropriations bill. This rider, Section 329, would have penalized all Indian nations for Lummi attempts to assert their water rights. It would have nullified the sovereign immunity that Indian nations and all nations and states have. Section 329 replaced Section 115, an earlier rider also authored by Senator Gorton to punish the Lummi Nation, which was attached to the 1996 Interior appropriations bill.

A non-partisan group of senators, who convinced Senator Gordon to withdraw Section 329 wrote: "Enactment of such a provision would completely reverse decades of Federal-Indian policy, returning our Nation to a time when Indian resources were plundered at will under color of law and tribal self-government was overrun by State and Federal government action."

In June 1995 the Lummi Nation issued a position paper that called for federal negotiations quantifying tribal water rights as the long term solution to water conflicts on the Lummi Reservation and in the Nooksack River Basin. That month a federal negotiating team was finally appointed.

The first negotiating meeting was held in January 1996. Three governments were represented -- the Lummi Nation, Washington State, and the federal government. The private property owners on the Reservation were represented by Washington State negotiators. Although the negotiators originally agreed to produce a draft proposal by the end of July 1996, they unanimously agreed to extend negotiations until 'September to build on progress achieved to date.

For more information: Lummi Nation, 2616 Kwina Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226; (360) 384-1489. Lummi Water Resource Manager (360) 384-2212.

Active Resistance '96 & Opposition to the Democratic National Convention

Doug Wordell

When I got off the plane and on to the "L" (Chicago's subway system) I was struck by the images I was initially confronted with police dressed in black paramilitary gear, looking more like commandos with their huge muzzled rottweilers. It was not only an illustrative example of the police state that we live under, but also of what happens when one lives in an economy that cannot resolve serious discrepancies when it comes to the allocation of wealth and privilege.

But in a world filled with injustice, resistance is growing. Active- Resistance was an eleven day Anarchist counter-convention during the Democratic National Convention for activists who seek to build a world no longer governed by The State or Capitalist money interests and instead seek to set up a self-governed society organized on an egalitarian basis; with decisions made by those affected by them; direct democratic control of our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, towns and bio-regions with coordination between groups as needed. A world where women and men are free and equal and all of us have power over our own lives, bodies, and sexuality; where we cherish and live in balance with the earth and value diversity of cultures, races and sexual orientations; where we work and live together cooperatively.

We are constructive as well as oppositional and are ready to forge a brighter future

The over 700 participants of Active Resistance were not only there to oppose the Democrats, for both parties not only ignore, but also exacerbate the growing poverty and inequalities in the world; AR was also there to organize our own communities of resistance. The conference focused on three main questions: How we live, how we work, and how we grow. The first five days were marked by participants dividing into three main "core" groups: revolutionary movements, alternative economics and community organizing. From these cores specific working groups were formed including prison abolition, kid liberation, democracy in the work place, cooperative health care... the list goes on and on.

But as much as we strived to develop strategy and institutions for a free society there was also a large amount of protest to show the huge disparities in the current system and this of course led to direct confrontation with the cops. There were many protests including the "No Justice, No Peace" rally and march which was the biggest of all the events and had a well organized "black block" with a huge thirty foot corporate tower and several other visuals. There was also a large protest to resist immigration policies with another "black block" of anarchists holding banners reading, "No One Is Illegal-No Borders-Anarchist Solidarity". In addition there was the "Festival of the Oppressed" procession. There was an enormous skeletal figure of the Pope, people sporting police badges and wearing giant pig's heads, a real-life "Joe Camel" - mouth stuffed with cigarettes - hacking and coughing while pushing smokes, and "Reporters" carried around oversized cardboard video cameras that were labeled "EMPTY TV" and "SEE BS". The "reporters" randomly interviewed curious onlookers. In the center of the march was a thirty-foot tower representing corporate greed, being dragged by "consumers", "workers", "tax payers", and "voters". Bringing up the rear in chains were the casualties, "immigrants", "minorities", and "single moms." At the end of the march, the tower was "stormed" and destroyed by its victims, leaving a red fist and panels showing a new cooperative society. The "Festival of the Oppressed" was also subject to the most police harassment of all the events.

photo by David Solnit

photo by David Solnit

There was a huge amount of police harassment during the whole conference. 8 people from AR were arrested and 8 people from Counter Media (a group dedicated to documenting the counter-organizing that the mainstream press would not cover), were also arrested and had their van raided twice, and had some equipment smashed and confiscated. The cops did not have warrants for any of the raids. One of the main facilities (the Ballroom) was raided by cops wearing no badges or name tags, They maced three people during the raid, two of whom had to go to the hospital. One women was kicked and maced while others were thrown to the ground. Another women asked if she could take her three year old child away from the area but the cops said "no." When AR participants asked where the cops badges were, the cops responded that their badges were "lost". Although I did not witness the actual raid I was walking to the Ballroom while it was happening and was shocked by what had to be at least 75 to 100 cops in the area. They purposely arrested nobody the night of the raid and the cops still deny that the raid ever happened, even though the hospital documented that two people had been treated for mace on that night.

Many people had their eyes on Chicago this summer ready to compare it to the events of 1968's graphic displays of police brutality. Even though the mainstream press praised the cops as being well-behaved, their plan to control the protesters was to turn the city into what functioned as an armed camp. Protesters were surrounded by an overwhelming amount of cops during all events.

The National Lawyers Guild, who will be representing some of those arrested - commented, "One of the most disturbing things was that this seems to be an orchestrated effort on the part of the police and possibly the Secret Service. It just makes you realize where your government's at right now. And I think that's a really disturbing statement about the nature of what's going on in this country, and what's going on with things like the crime bill that passed in '93, the anti-terrorism bill that just passed - this level of squashing dissent that's going on."

This dissent is growing wider and the cops are going to have to do better than this to silence a new generation of activists. We are learning from past mistakes and carrying on what we hope will lead to large scale social change. We are constructive as well as oppositional and are ready to forge a brighter future.

The success of Active Resistance marks a huge step forward in the anarchist/radical/anti-authoritarian community in North America. Even through the police harassed and raided some of the main facilities they could not stop the spirit that was unleashed across North America with the end of AR. Our legal defense is doing well and we are all a little wiser and more prepared for further struggle. Anarchists and anti-authoritarians actively resisted the Democratic Parties policies on criminal justice, corporate welfare, health care, homelessness, immigrant rights, affirmative action, and many other issues. Not only did we resist, but we resisted with the creativity, the substance, and the integrity of those truly committed to visions of a new society and the strategies to get there.

There will be a presentation on Active Resistance at the Liberation Cafe on November 15th at 7pm.

Justice: Do It NIKE!

WIP NewService

On October 6th, around fifty demonstrators picketed at Olympia's Indian Summer Golf Course because they were hosting the NIKE Golf Tournament. The protesters had golfball styled signs with statements like: "NIKE uses child labor" and "Workers Are Teed-OFF." Also David Solnit brought his large puppets with a nikExploitation face. (David crafted the puppets used at the Democratic Convention in Chicago, featured in this WIP.)

There is worldwide pressure on Nike to change their business practices, particularly their exploitation of Third World Labor and child labor markets. Nike as the shoe industry leader has profited largely from the use of Third World Labor. For instance, more than a third of Nike's products are manufactured in Indonesia. In order to attract foreign investment, like Nike, the Indonesia minimum wage was deliberately set below the subsistence level.

The issues of the protest were that Nike uses (and abuses) the Third World to make its profits. (CHILD LABOR -- $.60 per day to sew soccer balls that sell for $80. CONTRACT LABOR -- $2.20 per day to make $80-100 shoes). Meanwhile Nike pays MICHAEL JORDAN $55,000 per day to advertise NIKE. NIKE is expected to be worth $6 billion in 1997 ($16.5 million per day). CEO Phil Knight's salary at Nike is approximately $864,583, and his bonuses for 1995 were about $787,500. This, of course, does not include his Nike stock worth $4.5 billion.

In solidarity with other groups, the protesters were asking NIKE to:

· Pay workers in Nike-contracted factories a fair wage.

· Allow independent monitoring of factories, as requested by Development and Peace, and as agreed to by The Gap in El Salvador.

· Support workers' right to organize for better wages and working conditions and stop allowing military suppression of strikes.

· Cease using child labor.

The protest was mentioned in *The News Tribune* and the *Seattle Times.* The stories concentrated mainly on the protesters interfering with the tournament. One quoted a golfer who claimed they caused him to miss a putt. Nike spokesperson, Wayne Berry, was quoted as saying "I can't believe there are no laws against this." The protesters were asking that there need to be laws against child labor and Third World Exploitation!

The News Tribune put the story on the Press Wire and National Public Radio did a story on it. CBS News - 48Hours also wanted video/photo footage from the protest to run in a story they were airing on October 17th. It was a damning piece on a Nike factory in Vietnam, where workers are exploited and abused. The Olympia protest did not make the final cut as part of the story However, a Portland protest did, featuring a shot of Olympia's East Timor Action Network former coordinator Nancy Hague.

photo by Ron Smith

The Olympian did a story on the protest with a picture that ran on page C2, the local section. It was an unflattering piece that distorted the purpose of the protest. Letters to the Editor by two of the protesters wound up on the "specially created" Letters Section of the Sports Page, way in the back on page B6. Was *the Olympian* trying to distort the issue and backpage all criticism? Maybe that was because *the Olympian*, a fine objective media source, was a sponsor of the Olympia Open Nike Golf Tour.

It is still important to let Nike know your opinion.

Call 1-800-EGG-NIKE or write to: ONE BOWERMAN DRIVE, BEAVERTON, OR 97005-6453.

Max White, coordinator of the Justice: Do It Nike! campaign will be in Olympia on October 30th. He will be speaking at noon in the TESC Library Lobby. Max White recently returned from Indonesia, where he witnessed the conditions firsthand.

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New Counseling Service for the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/ Transgender Community

WIP NewService

This summer at Olympia's Pride Parade, I heard news that a new counseling service for the lesbian/gay/bi/transgender community had opened -- Sigafoos & Witcher. I was really excited.

In the midwestern suburb where I grew up, there was most certainly no such thing. There was not one out queer in my high school, and, for that matter, none that I knew of in the whole town. It just wasn't an option.

My friends who have come out since moving away describe years of self-hatred and the feeling that they were "the only one". Many went through or are still going through traumas with families who misunderstood, feared, or disowned them. And of course, none of this is unique to my circle of friends. It happens every day, everywhere.

So my first thought when I heard about Sigafoos & Witcher was "That kicks ass! I wish there was one where I grew up." Life would've been a lot different for the people close to me if there had been a place in the community where they could find validation and support.

My second thought, intrepid advertising representative that I am, was "They need an ad in Works In Progress." So I went to see them.

Nancy Sigafoos and Tina Witcher are both open lesbians. They came into the practice with an understanding of the flagrant homophobia faced by sexual minorities in a society where it is legal to deny them civil rights, and also an understanding of the more subtle heterosexism of a popular culture whose movies, music, and advertising have little or nothing to offer the queer population. The practice was created with the goal of being a safe place for people to examine these and other issues that affect their lives, and to learn to thrive in spite of them.

The office of Sigafoos & Witcher is open to people of all sexual orientations. They welcome friends and family of lesbian, gay, bi, and trans people. Services offered include couples counseling, individual therapy, family therapy, and relationship planning. They also go to businesses and schools to educate people about sensitivity to sexual orientation. There is currently a support group for transsexuals meeting Thursdays at 1pm which is open to people who are considering surgery as well as those who are undergoing or have already undergone it. A support group for bisexual women is also being formed.

Part of their mission statement is to keep their services affordable. They even offer a free 30-minute intake session. This gives you a chance to meet the therapists, talk about goals, and decide if working with them is right for you.

To make an appointment, call 943-5430, or stop by their office in the Security Building downtown, 203 East Fourth Ave., Suite 212.

The Labor Party and the Appropriation of Wobbly Culture

Jess Grant

On Wednesday October 9th muralist Mike Alewitz spoke at Olympia's Labor Temple, showing slides about the formation this summer of a new American Labor Party. Currently on a national tour to stump for the party, Alewitz made an emotional appeal for workers' support, emphasizing the important role that "cultural workers" could play in the development of the Labor Party.

If Alewitz had merely hyped his Labor Party I would have given him no more notice than any other political pitchman. After all, progressive parties come and go all the time – there's no reason to think the Labor Party will fare any differently than half a dozen other parties whose bleached bones dot the landscape of the Left. But what really got my goat was the way he appropriated Wobbly (IWW) culture for his own ends, rewriting history in the process (more on this soon).

Alewitz began his presentation with some hyperbole. "What happened in Cleveland this summer was the most important political event to occur in this country in decades," he proclaimed. "For the first time since the 1940's the American working class has its own political party." To be sure, the Democrats and Republicans are two sides of the same capitalist coin, and he's right to insist that workers will never be at home in those parties.

But what about the Citizens' Party, The Green Party, or California's Peace and Freedom Party, not to mention efforts by the National Organization for Women (NOW) to build a party? He may not be in complete agreement with everything they stand for but it's dishonest to pretend they simply don't exist.

Nor does he examine the effectiveness of party-building in general. If we've learned anything from the Labor parties of England and Europe, it's that "workers" parties always end up replicating the monster they were created to destroy. The practical need to win elections inevitably leads to an erosion of principles that makes so-called Labor parties indistinguishable from their mainstream counterparts.

That erosion of principles is already evident in the new Labor Party's platform. An insistence on "Jobs for All," for instance, fails to question the fundamental boss/worker paradigm. By tacitly conceding the class relations of capitalist production the Labor Party fails to offer workers any hope of a genuinely self-managed economy. Yes, full employment WOULD tip the balance in workers' favor by eliminating the scab labor pool, but a simple call for more jobs lacks the liberating vision we need to truly escape the chains of our past.

By tacitly conceding the class relations of capitalist production the Labor Party fails to offer workers any hope of truly self-managed industrial democracy.

What irked me most was how Alewitz appropriated Wobbly culture. The Industrial Workers of the World (the IWW or Wobblies) are a revolutionary labor union founded in 1905 by militant unionists who were fed up with the AF of L's ineffectual craft unionism. The IWW's founders dreamed of "One Big Union" that could unite all workers regardless of trade into a powerful and unified body capable of transforming society by abolishing capitalism once and for all. Those early Wobblies believed in fighting for economic justice with economic means and had a healthy distrust of political parties and their power-seeking leaders.

Alewitz took this Wobbly legacy and twisted it beyond all recognition. To illustrate the importance that cultural work can play in the working class movement, he recalled the famous Paterson silk strike of 1913 and the pageant about it. In an effort to build public support for the strike, journalist John Reed, Wobbly organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, and several New York society women staged a dramatic re-enactment of it at Madison Square Garden, using the strikers to play themselves.

Alewitz nearly wrote the IWW out of the strike, only mentioning near the end that "the workers brought in some Wobbly organizers for the expertise they could lend." In fact the IWW had been organizing in Paterson since 1905, working hard to bring the many ethnic factions together into a coherent strike force. The pageant itself was highly controversial and believed by many to have diverted scarce resources away from the picket line, leading ultimately to the collapse of the strike. As Melvyn Dubofsky explains in *We Shall Be All: A History of the IWW:*

> From the next morning on, the strike went downhill; the pageant proved to be its climax, the rest was anti-climax. Reed had promised money for the strikers – thousands of dollars to feed, clothe, and shelter them – and now he couldn't deliver on his promise. Preparations for the pageant had meanwhile distracted strikers from the more important job of picketing. While they turned away from the from the field of life to the fantasy of the theatre, the first significant numbers of strikebreakers entered Paterson's mills. The pageant provoked jealousy as well. Only a thousand strikers could go to New York, leaving 24,000 others behind.

He didn't stop with Paterson. Alewitz proceeded to desecrate the memory of Wobbly songwriter Joe Hill, composer of such labor classics as *The Rebel Girl* and *Casey Jones the Scab*. (To be fair, this is not unusual. Mainstream labor has long claimed Joe Hill as one of their own despite the fact that, when he was alive, Hill often derided the AF of L.)

Alewitz showed Labor Day marchers dressed up as "blockheads," in reference to Hill's song *Mr. Block* about a stupid, well-meaning worker who believes everything his boss and political leaders tell him. Does Alewitz know that the song's final verse describes how Block gets duped by socialist politicians?

If Alewitz had simply argued his case on its own merits, I'd have been happy to merely disagree. But to appropriate the personalities and activities of the IWW, and use them to promote a project so antithetical to the union's goals, seems criminal. I wish I could have stuck around to argue my case more thoroughly but personal commitments forced me to leave early. I hope, however, that this article will in some small way set the record straight.

General Election Endorsements

National Congress

District 3 Brian Baird
District 9 Adam Smith

State Offices

Governor – Gary Locke
Attorney General – Christine Gregoire
Auditor– Brian Sonntag
Treasurer – Mike Murphy
Commissioner of Public Lands– Jennifer Belcher
Sec. of State – Ralph Munro
Super of Public Instruction – Terry Bergson

State Legislature

20th District
House, Pos. 1 – Lois Lopez
House, Pos. 2 – Gary Alexander
Senate – Cody Arledge
22nd District
House, Pos. 1 – Sandra Romero
House, Pos 2 – Cathy Wolfe
Senate – Karen Fraser
35th District
House, Pos. 1 – Lena Swanson

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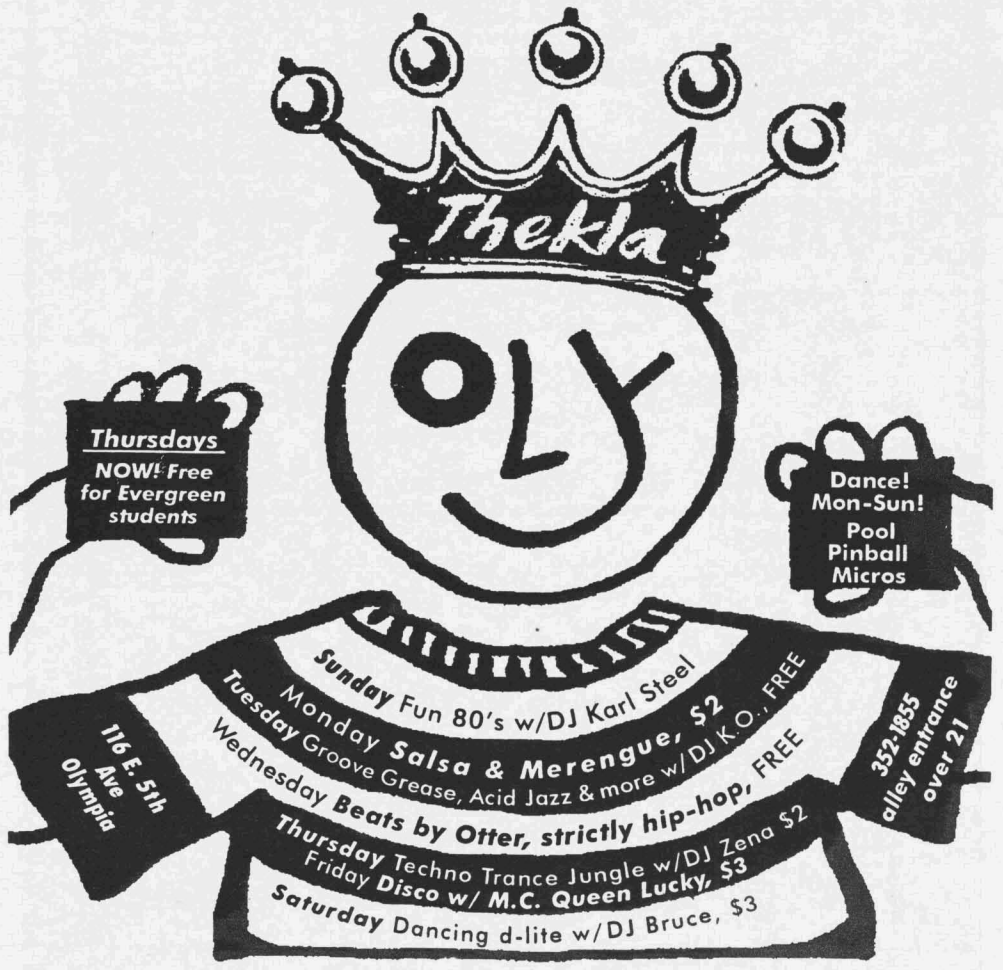

Getting Organized at the U of Vermont

Ron Jacobs

What follows is a brief description of a union organizing drive currently underway at the University of Vermont (UVM). Like many other workplaces across the country (both public and private), the key word in management over the past several years has been downsizing. Although no layoffs have occurred as of this writing, many nonmanagement positions have been lost through attrition. In addition, several workers accepted buy-out proposals earlier in the decade. Layoffs did occur at the Fletcher Allen Medical Center - Vermont's largest healthcare facility and a teaching hospital for UVM medical school students and faculty. Since the 1970s faculty have attempted unionization three times and failed. Staff, however, have never even attempted to organize until now, preferring instead to grin and bear whatever cost-cutting moves the administration comes up with.

It all began innocuously enough — a meeting between administration representatives and various departmental reps where UVM management would present its budgetary plans for the next couple of years. I don't know how aware other staffers were of the substance of the meetings, but it's certain that most of us didn't expect to hear the proposals presented by UVM's administration.

These proposals included many attacks on staff's current benefits package and the threat of layoffs if those cutbacks were not approved. Some of the most controversial suggestions were: the end of tuition remission - a program whereby children of UVM employees can go to any Vermont public college or university should they meet the qualifications; an increase in the premium currently paid for medical benefits by staff and faculty; an increase in the current co-payment of $2.00 a doctor visit; and some changes in the current retirement plan.

Anyhow, this information was released to staff members within hours of the meeting and, within days, a storm was brewing. Many workers were not only angry at the administration, but also a bit scared for their jobs, given the layoffs then occurring at UVM's kissing cousin on the hill - Fletcher Allen Hospital. In an attempt to divert the apparent anger, the administration called a series of "open forums" to present their proposal and to gather feedback. These forums took place during the late spring months and fulfilled the administrative hopes of gaining feedback and dispersing much of the anger.

The struggle for dignity and a voice in the workplace is part and parcel of the struggle for the dignity of all of us in the world whose voice is being stifled in the din of bureaucracy and the centralization of greed.

At the same time, certain UVM workers began to seriously consider a union. They began this process by leafletting the open forums as well as meetings held by the Staff Council and Faculty Senate. Their first general meeting took place on May 1, 1996 (for those of you into labor history, this is May Day) and was attended by some forty or so UVM staff and faculty, as well as a small number of Fletcher Allen staff. The meeting lasted about an hour and ended in the creation of an organizing committee.

The original scope of the organizing committee was both UVM and Fletcher Allen Medical Center, and it was with this in mind that much of the discussion took place during both the weekly organizing committee meetings and the next two large general meetings of June and July. However, as time went on, it's become apparent that there is not enough energy and time to organize both institutions at once and the current drive is focused on the staff here at UVM.

Over the summer, the organizing committee talked with representatives of a couple different unions which are located in Vermont. We attempt to maintain a presence on campus and, on a lesser scale, in the local community. Our hope is to decide on a union to affiliate with in the next month. Once this is done, awareness of our presence will increase. The task ahead is large, but not insurmountable. If successful, our workplace will be one of the larger unionized workforces in Vermont. It will also serve as a hopeful beacon for the rest of Vermont's workers as we face the globalization of the economy and the continuing devaluation of human beings in the wake of the "downsizing' we are told that globalization demands. The struggle for dignity and a voice in the workplace is part and parcel of the struggle for the dignity of all of us in the world whose voice is being stifled in the din of bureaucracy and the centralization of greed.

The organizing committee maintains a web page and produces an occasional newsletter for general circulation. If you have web access, check it out. union@list.uvm.edu or http://moose.uvm.edu/~rjacobs/union.html

UVM-FAEOC
PO Box 8825
Burlington, VT. 05402-8825

CALENDAR

Friday, November 1st
Francisco Cali will speak on Human Rights in Guatemala

Noon in TESC Library Lobby
7pm at Liberation Cafe, followed by Day of the Dead Celebration
Cali is a Guatemalan human rights leader and an indigenous descendant of the Mayas.
Call 705-2241 for information

Wednesday, Nov. 6th
Pastors For Peace Caravan Send-Off - music by Jim Page

Potluck/Music -- 6:30pm
bring own plate/utensils
Speakers -- 7:30pm
More Music -- 8:30pm
United Churches
110 11th Ave. SE
Suggested donation: $2-$10
Information: 705-8361

Saturday, Nov. 16th
Bosnian Student Project Benefit Auction & Dinner

Silent Auction -- 6:30pm
Dinner/Entertainment -- 7-9pm
Dinner by Sweet Oasis Restaurant
Music by The Makedonians
Tickets: $15; $12 for 3 or more
Tickets must by bought by Nov. 9th
Call 459-5340 or 491-9093

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QUEER BRIEFS

Homophobic "Ex-Gay" Ads Bring Hate To Washington

Beginning on October 7, KAFE-FM in Bellingham, Washington began airing three anti-gay commercial spots by Youth Action Coalition, a homophobic local branch of the Christian Coalition. The ads feature Michael Johnston from Alaska, a self-professed "ex-gay" born-again Christian. In one, Johnston states, "While spending 11 years in the homosexual community, I learned a lot from homosexual activists about how they deal with people. I learned that when anyone disagrees with them they just call them a hate monger. When your friend or neighbor says they don't want their children taught about homosexuality in schools, they just call them right-wing extremists. Oh yeah, I learned a lot from homosexual activists. Kinda makes you wonder where the real hate is coming from."

The ads are deplorable in their polarizing attempt to paint lesbians and gay men as the perpetrators of the very hate and bigotry that we struggle to fight. These patently offensive commercials do not deserve air time, and when they surfaced on a different channel last June, they were pulled within days and the radio personality who played them was fired.

Demand that the same action be taken at KAFE-FM. Explain to them that simply taking these hateful spots off the air is not enough. Insist on a full public and on-air apology for pandering to such a profound level of low-minded homophobia and misinformation. Contact: Michael Pollock, General Manager, KAFE-FM, 2360 E. Sunset Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226, fax: 360.734.5697, e-mail: kafe@kafe.com.

Appeals Court Lets Stand Federal Court Ruling in Cammermeyer Case

(LOS ANGELES, October 7, 1996) The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Monday rejected the government's effort to wipe off the books a lower court decision that stopped the military from discharging Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, the highly decorated Army and National Guard nurse, for acknowledging she is a lesbian.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Cammermeyer's co-counsel, said the ruling preserves an important federal court opinion that ruled the military's anti-gay policy to be unconstitutional. Although the government earlier agreed to not discharge Col. Cammermeyer, Lambda continues to wage legal challenges to the military's on-going anti-gay rules which treat lesbian and gay personnel differently than non-gay pesonnel.

The ruling by the Ninth Circuit sends the case, Cammermeyer v. United States, to U.S. District Court Judge Thomas S. Zilly in Seattle. Judge Zilly ruled in 1994, that Col. Cammermeyer's discharge was a violation of her Constitutional rights to equal protection and due process. The judge also said it was unconstitutional to discharge Col. Cammermeyer solely on the basis of her sexual orientation. Although the appeals court refused the government's request to vacate the earlier decision, it left the option to Judge Zilly to consider.

A 28-year veteran of the Army and National Guard, and Chief Nurse of the Washington State National Guard, Cammermeyer is the highest-ranking service member to be discharged for being lesbian or gay. Among many other honors, she received a Bronze Star for her service in Vietnam.

Euro-Parliament repeats its commitment to LG Rights

On September 15, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on human rights in the European Union that includes a call to banish discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The resolution includes the following statement: "In accordance with the terms of the February 8 1994 Resolution on the Equality of Rights for Homosexuals and Lesbians in the Community, the Parliament asks that all discrimination and/or inequality of treatment must be abolished concerning homosexuals, especially referring to differences that persist on the age of consent for homosexuals, and discrimination concerning the right to work, and in penal, civil, contractual, social and economic law." (freely translated)

Resolution A4-0223/96 is an eight page resolution covering issues as diverse as prisoners, torture, respect of the family, and more. The resolution on homosexuality refers to the motion of the commune of Verone of 14 July 1995 (which condemned the European Parliament's earlier resolution) and replies to some other petitions from Germany, Spain and Italy.

1ST ANNUAL GAY/ LESBIAN AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS

GLAMA handed it out it's first awards on Sunday, October 6 in New York's historic Webster Hall in front of a crowd of over 500. Time and time again, the name of Michael Callen was heard as the late singer/songwriter/activist received four awards: Male Artist, Album; and Duo or Group and Choral Group (along with Arnold McCuller, Cris Williamson, Holly Near and John Bucchino) for the song "They Are Falling All Around Me." Callen was nominated for 9 awards in 6 categories for the posthumously released "Legacy" (Significant Other Records)

The other multiple winner of the evening was Catie Curtis (Guardian), who started off the musical extravaganza with her hit song "Radical" and went on to carry off GLAMAs for Out Recording and Out Song. David Clement was named Debut Artist for "Be More Like Me" (Wild Monk).

Melissa Etheridge was named Female Artist for her work on "Yes I Am" (Island). In a pre-taped announcement, Etheridge, who was performing a concert elsewhere that night, said she was honored to be given the GLAMA in this historic first year.

The Outmusic Award, a special award given to a recipient with a steadfast commitment to speak openly and specifically to the gay/lesbian community, was presented to Ferron, who also performed two songs from her album "Still Riot" (Warner) after being presented the award by well known comic and friend Kate Clinton.

The Michael Callen Medal of Achievement was given to Tom Robinson, whose 1978 song "Glad to Be Gay" is a milestone in gay/lesbian music. Robinson has inspired thousands with his courageous and important work of engendering, nurturing, and furthering gay/lesbian music, including Callen himself who often cited Robinson as a major influence and inspiration. Robinson, who was on hand to accept the award, sang an impromptu verse at the podium from his new album "Having It Both Ways" (Cooking Vinyl). Jim Fouratt of Mercury Records presented him with the award.

Two More Senators Evade Post-DOMA Outings:

As with Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wis) and Representative John Kasich (R-Ohio), both Senators Larry Pressler (R-SD) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) are feeling the heat since voting for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Sen. Pressler has addressed rumors that he is gay. Author Alexander Cockburn's recent book, *Washington Babylon*, states that Pressler married in 1982 "amid speculation he was gay." Pressler insists that Cockburn is connected to Democratic opponent Rep. Tim Johnson and released a campaign ad attacking Johnson, calling the claim "mean-spirited, malicious and untrue." Johnson has repeatedly denied any connection to the gay allegations and claims that it is Pressler that is making the gay rumors an issue. Sen. Mikulski, on the other hand, is remaining hushed about her rumored homosexuality. In the Baltimore Alternative, Mikulski refused to comment during repeated questions by a reporter, including asking point-blank if she is a lesbian. For more information contact Paul Sloca (Associated Press, Sioux Falls) at (605) 332-3111; Charles Mueller (Baltimore Alternative) at (410) 235-3401.

North Carolina Court Rules in Favor of Gay Father

(DURHAM, N.C., October 15, 1996) Issuing an opinion that says a parent's sexual orientation should be irrelevant in custody disputes throughout the state, the North Carolina Court of Appeals Tuesday reversed a lower court which had taken two children from their father's custody because he is gay.

Beatrice Dohrn, legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Sharon Thompson of N.C. Gay and Lesbian Attorneys (NC GALA) brought the appeal behalf of Fred Smith, a North Carolina father who had raised his two sons all their lives until losing custody in 1995.

Thompson said, "The two children in this case were uprooted from their father's home where they were thriving in North Carolina, to live with their mother in Kansas, just because our client's ex-wife discovered he is gay."

Thompson continued, "We are pleased the appeals court today clarified to judges throughout the state that decisions to modify custody must be based on concrete facts showing harm to children, not based on speculation that children are harmed by a parent's sexual orientation or private sexual behavior.

SITGES: Police Harrassment

During summer months, gay men were stopped and "controlled" by police at the beach and maritime boulevard in Sitges, Spain. Gays were asked to identify themselves. 253 names were collected and information was filed. Many of the victims were European citizens who were on holidays in Sitges. The reason given by town governor Ignasi Deo, who ordered the repressive measures, was that citizens had made protests to town hall against male prostitution.

Jordi Petit, secretary general of the Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana (and of the International Lesbian and Gay Association), met with the town mayor in August. On the 20th of August, controls at the beach were stopped and the next day, the files were destroyed. As a result of this, the governor presented his resignation.

However, it was not accepted by the Mayor. If the Mayor does not accept the governor's resignation, the Catalunyan group Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana will regard him as partially responsible for the controls and intends to appeal to the European Court of Justice.

Sitges, SPAIN, is a popular holiday resort for gay men from Europe and around the world. The Catalunyan region of Spain, in general, is progressive on lesbian and gay issues. Its capital Barcelona has a vibrant political and social lesbian and gay scene. This action on gay men by the state harkens back to the time when general Franco did the same. Under his dictatorship from 1939-1975, many lesbians and gays were imprisoned. Spanish gay and lesbian groups were banned until 1978. That the collection of personal data on gay men could happen in one of the most important gay centres in Europe in this day and age is a great shock to Spanish lesbian and gay activists and they ask for your support.

Please send letters, telegrams, faxes to Sitges Town Hall addressed to the mayor in order to accept the resignation of governor Ignasi Deo.

The address is: Sr. Pere Junyent Ajuntament de Sitges Plca. Ajuntament s/n E-08870 Sitges Spain Tel.: +34 3 811 76 00 Fax.: +34 3 811 48 00

Please send a copy of the letter to the Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana in Barcelona. Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana voice: 34-3-237 08 69 C/ les Carolines, 13 fax: 34-3-218 11 91 08012 Barcelona hot line: 900 601 601 (from Spain) Catalunya 34-3-237 70 70 (rest of the world) e-mail: cogailes@pangea.org http://www.pangea.org

Information sources include ILGA. ILGA - International Lesbian and Gay Association 81 Kolenmarkt, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium; Phone/Fax +32-2-502-2471, E-mail: ilga@ilga.org A federation of over 300 groups from 75 countries fighting for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.We also have over 100 supportive associate and individual members.

Information also provided by GLAAD. GLAAD is the lesbian and gay news bureau and the only national lesbian and gay multimedia watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Copies of articles referred to in the GLAADAlert are available to our members by contacting GLAAD. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at 213.658.6775 (Los Angeles), 212.807.1700 (New York), 413.586.8928 (Northampton), 503.224.5285 (Portland, Oregon), 202.986.1360 (Washington, DC) or 415.861.2244(San Francisco). Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334) Visit GLAAD's Web Site at http://www.glaad.org "GLAADAlert," "GLAAD" and "Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation" are trademarks of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Inc.

Planting Trees Where Landmines Used To Be

Chris Stegman

Healing the wounds of the U.S. war in Vietnam is the primary goal of the recently established PeaceTrees Vietnam project, the 20th such project sponsored by the Earthstewards Network, based on Bainbridge Island and led by ex-nuclear physicist turned peacemaker Danaan Perry and his wife, Jerilyn Brusseau.

Over 1700 tree seedlings, retrieved from throughout the country, will be planted by this multinational team from November 22nd thru December 13th.

There are an estimated 100,000 live landmines in Vietnam, most of them left behind by U.S. forces after the war's end in April 1975 -- 58,000 of them are in the Quang Tri Province in Central Vietnam, the site of the former DMZ and the hardest hit during the war. Postwar records reveal that one out of five of the wartime population of Quang Tri Province of 45,000 were either killed or seriously wounded.

In addition, the massive carpet bombing of the area, along with chemical defoliation, transformed this once lush tropical forested area into a compacted barren wasteland -- 60% of the forests were destroyed.

The landmines left behind, mostly used to protect the U.S. military bases in the area have left another post-war legacy. Thousands of Vietnamese, an average of one per week since the war's end, mostly children and youth foraging for recyclable scrap metal to help their families survive the devastated post war economy, have died or been maimed for left by the landmines that lay hidden beneath the ground throughout the provincial landscape. The temperatures in the area are 10 degrees hotter than before the war due to the destruction of the forests which helped break the warm winds coming in from Laos.

The goal of PeaceTrees Vietnam is to make Vietnam landmine-safe (free) by the year 2002 (within 6 years). The current year's goal is to raise $260,000 for the initial phase of the project. Starting with an 18-acre tract near the site of the former U.S. Marine Combat base at Khe Sanh, near Dong Ha town in Quang Tri province, over 360 live landmines, mortars, bomblets, grenades, etc., as well as 1549 pieces that had already exploded were removed over the past summer.

Several newly developed, Austrian landmine-detectors, which can detect 98% plastic landmines and cost $4000 each at wholesale price, were purchased by Earthstewards to ensure mine clearance safety standards. Three retired U.S. military de-mining experts volunteered their time to advise and assist the provincial Vietnamese militia which is conducting the landmine clearance.

On November 22nd, a work team of 40 (mostly American, some Canadian) people will travel to Vietnam to work with 40 Vietnamese locals to plant a Friendship Forest Park, the beginning of the reforestation efforts. Over 1700 tree seedlings, retrieved from throughout the country, will be planted by this multinational team from November 22nd thru December 13th. Following this, the construction of a Landmine Awareness Education Center will begin which will provide information to provincial residents in order to minimize further deaths and disabilities.

For more information contact Chris Stegman at 705-3528. Earthstewards is vigorously waging a grassroots international campaign and is amongst dozens of non-governmental organizations actively engaged in helping the Vietnamese people in their reconstruction efforts. Stegman is a former anti-war activist and TESC graduate who worked as a volunteer program assistant for the East Meets West Foundation, lived in Vietnam for 6 months in 1993 and helped organize the 2nd 'Peace Walk' in Hanoi against the U.S. trade embargo during his stay. He is a recent transplant to Olympia and is planning to return to Vietnam as a Team2 PeaceTree planter in early 1997.

Please attend a special event on

Fri/Sat, November 17

at 2pm

Unitarian Church

2200 East End St. NW, Olympia

Come and hear an update on the initial mine clearance and meet a young Vietnamese American woman who is going back to help plant the Friendship Forest Park 60 miles from where she grew up during the war.

Working To End Nuclearism

Robert Devine

"Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear, so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. There are no longer problems of the spirit. There is only the question: 'When will I be blown up?"

— from William Faulkner's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech

On Tuesday, September 24, 1996, President Clinton, along with the Prime Minister of Japan, and foreign ministers from Russia, China, Britain, and France, signed a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which would ban all nuclear weapons detonations worldwide.

It would seem that all thinking men and women, regardless of their political background, would support these efforts for limiting the development of new weaponry on the way toward the eventual goal of disarmament, but here we are, on our way to November, and every issue seems to find a voice of disagreement from the opposing political party with some rationalization as to why it is folly or detrimental to the people of this country.

I agree that there are obstacles to the ratification of the treaty. 44 nations with the potential to develop nuclear weapons must sign the treaty before it is effective. India does not plan to sign until those countries with nuclear capability move further toward disarmament. Another question rises up about how countries such as Iran or Libya might not comply with the treaty. Some feel that with these various obstacles, why bother?

Well, if this world had to wait until everybody agreed to do something, then how much would be accomplished? A consensus might be a great thing to have, but sometimes in building a consensus, steps need to be taken which reflect a greater commitment toward the goal before the skeptics and naysayers will sign on with any support.

But my real difficulty in this seems to lie more with the attitude expressed by some politicians that the treaty may harm "U.S. nuclear military readiness". To me, that comes from a slant that is very backward in its thinking and decades old in outlook. I think I can safely speak for quite a few people in this world when I say that I feel more threatened by our nuclear military readiness than I have ever felt comfort from it.

If the world is to eventually do away with nuclear weapons then I think U.S. nuclear military readiness will have to be harmed at some point, will it not?

Here we have nuclear weapons that are already developed which may destroy the world over and over again and people are worried that this ban on testing may harm our military capability?

Let us end the political nature of this argument... Nuclear weaponry is not, and should never have been, a valid military option for the countries of our world.

I'm sure I'm naive in my outlook here and that there are many plausible reasons why we need to continue to develop nuclear weapons to maintain our defense capability, but how many bombs do we need to have before there are enough?

Are we not at least a couple decades past the point where we should have stopped?

Do we really need to develop any more nuclear weapons?

Isn't it time to stop and actually reduce them?... and to stop, doesn't one need to come to an agreement to stop?

Isn't that what these heads of state and foreign ministers are trying to do?

These aren't Republican questions. These aren't Democrat questions. They aren't even simply American questions. These are questions for the world and from the world, because they certainly don't originate with this writer.

For many years it seemed that there were "no longer problems of the spirit" as William Faulkner suggested. For the largest part, the looming question in the minds of the last few generations has had to do with the fear of nuclear war and the end of the world.

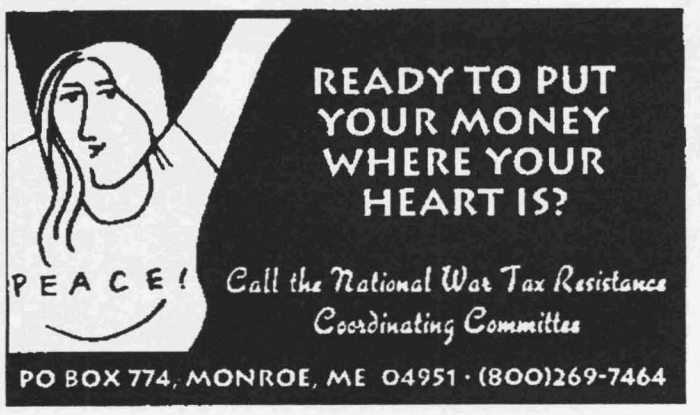
Now, as we prepare to move into a new millennium, shouldn't we begin to end those questions and return to the questions of the spirit, which deserve much more of our time than the worries of a nuclear Armageddon?

I applaud these actions. These people are doing what they were hired to do...lead. In a world filled with skepticism and disagreement we need more courageous people to take those steps toward building a larger consensus for peace as an ultimate goal for this planet.

This isn't, and shouldn't be, a political issue. If politicians want to oppose for the sake of politics and elections, then I say shame on you for doing it at the expense of our country (and actually, the world) and its people. Stop it!

Let us end the political nature of this argument and side together in what is obvious. Nuclear weaponry is not, and should never have been, a valid military option for the countries of our world. It is time to take those steps to end this threat once and for all.

This recent move by some of our world's leaders deserves our support and enthusiasm. If we cannot support the efforts by our leaders to do good things, then how can we expect them to continue to have the courage to take those chances and challenge the world to become a better place to live?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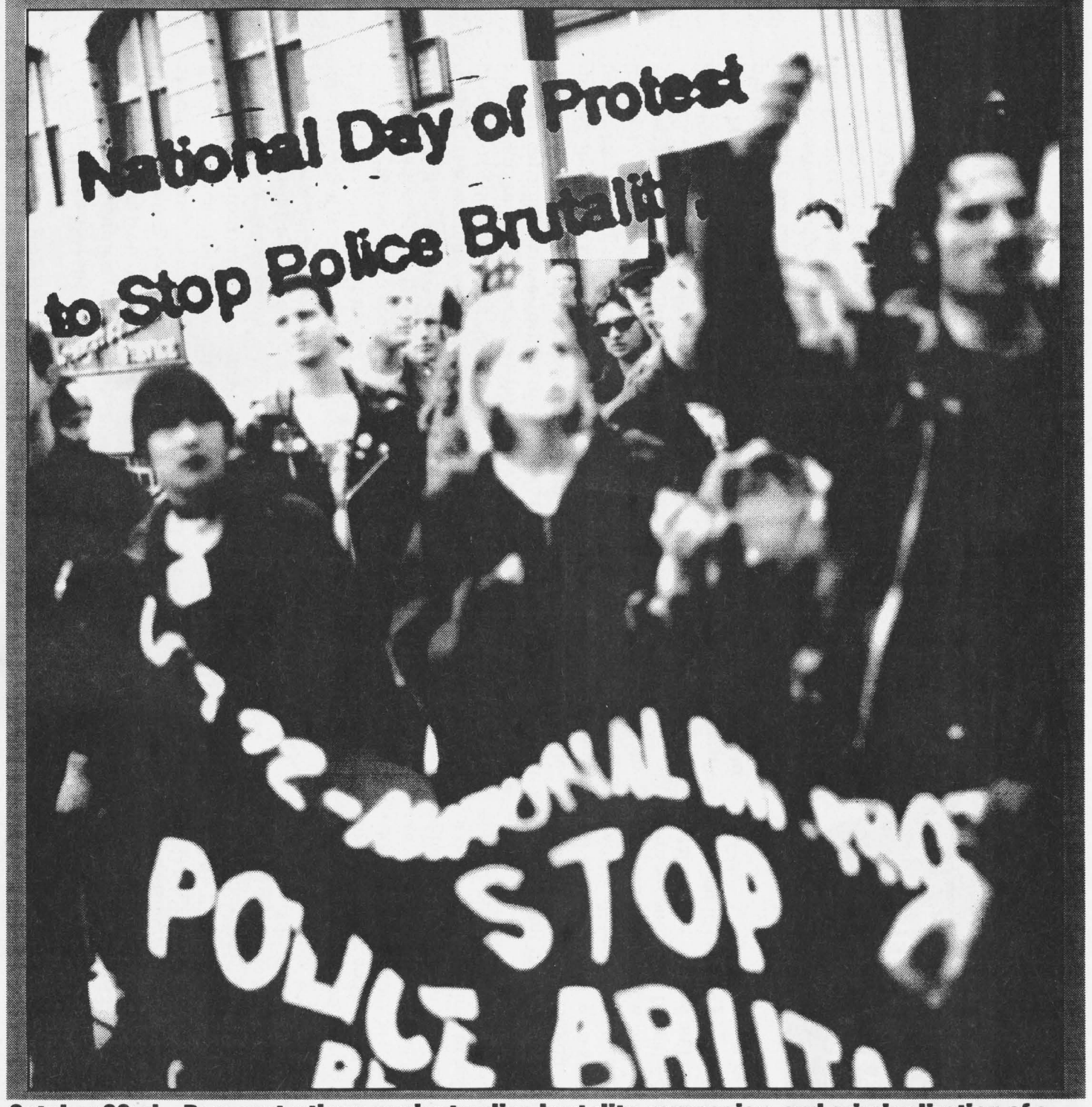

October 22nd – Demonstrations against police brutality, repression, and criminalization of a generation took place in over 30 cities around the nation, including Seattle (pictured).

1 Homelessness & Endorsements
3 Social Justice & Equality in Olympia Conference Schedule
6 From The Inside Out Restoring Community Justice
6-8 On Indian Land First Nations' Struggles/Resistance
7 Active Resistance Chicago's Democratic Convention

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